

## Celebrating the Birthday of His Majesty King Charles III in Nouakchott



of the United Kingdom's Celebration of King Charles III'S birthday.

Ambassador Colin Wells emphasized that the United Kingdom appreciates our country's efforts in bringing peace, security, and development to the Sahel region, which is facing security disturbances, especially in Mali and Burkina Faso. He also acknowledged Mauritania's presidency of the Sahel Group and its engagement in bringing peace, security, and development to the region. Furthermore, the British ambassador praised Mauritania's hosting of Malian refugees fleeing violence in the "Imbera" camp in Bassiknou, eastern Mauritania.

The UK Embassy in Nouakchott organized a ceremony on the evening of June 8, on the occasion

## Editorial

### Sweden Provokes the Feelings of Over a Billion and Half Muslims Across the Globe

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and Mauritanians Abroad strongly condemns and expresses deep regret over the incident of burning and tearing apart a copy of the Noble Quran in front of Stockholm Central Mosque during the first day of Eid Al-Adha.

The repetition of this abhorrent act reflects a hidden evil intent by its planners and perpetrators against Islam and its sacred values. It clearly demonstrates their eagerness to go to extreme lengths in provoking the sentiments of over a billion Muslims across different continents.

This condemnable act starkly contradicts the values of dialogue, tolerance, rejection of hatred, extremism, and exclusion. It is inconsistent with the fundamental principles of human rights and the values of peaceful coexistence among cultures and peoples.

On this occasion, the Mauritanian government reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence among cultures and peoples, in accordance with the noble principles of the Islamic religion. It renews its complete rejection of anything that fuels feelings of hatred and violence among peoples and nations. In this context, it calls on the international community to take concerted and serious action against the repetition of such heinous acts and to hold the perpetrators accountable."

## MAURITANIA AS AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR GREEN HYDROGEN

## Peace Forum in Nouakchott



The role of scholars and religious leaders in promoting peace, prioritizing dialogue, and confronting arguments with arguments, far from violence, extremism, and hatred.

## International O'meme Film Festival: Gateway for Emerging Mauritanian Talents



Second Edition: June 23-27, 2023  
The Key interviews the young Mauritanian Aziz Elman (23 years old), who recently won the Grand Prize at the International O'meme Film Festival for Cinema and Human Rights.

## The First Women's Football League in Mauritania



On the evening of Sunday, June 18, 2023, the first Mauritanian women's league was inaugurated with the participation of the country's top sports teams. The event took place at Cheikha ould Boïdiya Stadium, with several teams

representing the top Mauritanian clubs, which were required by the local football federation to establish women's teams in support of this segment of society. The opening ceremony witnessed a significant attendance of fans, extensive media coverage, and great interest.

## Press Release

Mauritanian Government and Civil Society Hail the US State Department Report on Trafficking.

The Commission for Human Rights, Humanitarian Work, and Relations with Civil Society issued a press release, stating:

"The US Department of State released its annual report on human trafficking in the world today, Thursday, June 15, 2023. With the help of Allah and thanks to the efforts exerted by the government over the past three years at legislative and institutional levels, our country's classification has been elevated to Tier 2 on the Human Trafficking Index".

"The report, published today, highlighted the overall progress achieved by our country in combating human trafficking. It reviewed the measures taken to enhance prevention, the available protection mechanisms, the effectiveness of judicial oversight, and international and local cooperation efforts to eliminate human trafficking. The report affirmed that our country is making significant efforts to combat human trafficking, noting that "the government has shown increased efforts compared to the previous reporting period, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its ability to combat trafficking".

"The report highlighted the government's efforts in this field, including increased investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of traffickers under the Anti-Slavery Law of 2015. It also established a mechanism to monitor and identify trafficking victims for the first time in five years, as well as a national mechanism to assist victims and the establishment of a dedicated fund for victim services. The government's establishment and funding of the National Authority for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants were particularly appreciated, along with extensive awareness campaigns on anti-trafficking laws and opposition to slavery nationwide. The elevation of our country's classification to Tier 2 on the Human Trafficking Index is an international recognition of the tremendous efforts we exert to promote and protect rights, freedoms, and human dignity in Mauritania".

"This achievement is the result of an open and constructive climate of dialogue with

various actors, which was established by His Excellency the President, Mr. Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, since assuming power. It has resulted in notable progress in promoting and protecting human rights. On this occasion, we, at the Commission for Human Rights, Humanitarian Work, and Relations with Civil Society, are pleased to extend our warmest congratulations and greetings to all government and non-government actors, reaffirming our determination to preserve these gains and continue to engage positively with various international mechanisms for the protection of human rights".

### Bac exams in Mauritania

The "Baccalaureate Certificate" exams in Mauritania were completed on the afternoon of June 22, 2023, with the participation of 44,862 candidates. The candidates were distributed across 147 centers, including 85 centers in the interior and 62 in the capital city of Nouakchott.

The exams included 14,150 candidates from regular education and 14,202 candidates from private education, while the number of independent candidates was 15,778, and the number of candidates from institutes was 732. The percentage of female candidates for this certificate was over 53%. The participants in these exams, which took place over four consecutive days, were divided into the traditional literature section, modern literature section, mathematics section, natural sciences section, and the technical section.

The Mauritanian Minister of Education, Ibrahim Fall Mohamed Amin, confirmed that multiple measures were taken to combat cheating this year, including cutting off internet access on mobile phones during the exam hours, suspending the operation of free schools and requiring them to close their premises during this period, tightening internal supervision, banning the entry of mobile phones, expelling those involved in embezzlement, and establishing external monitoring in front of the baccalaureate centers. This work was coordinated between the Ministries of Interior and Mauritanian Education, and hundreds of educational and security personnel were assigned to accompany this exam, which represents the most difficult gateway to higher education and provides many job and international opportunities.

The success rate in the baccalaureate exams in Mauritania was 8% in the year

2022, while it was also 8% in the year 2021, marking the lowest success rate among Arab and African countries. However, in the year 2020, the success rate was remarkable, reaching 16% for both sessions. In the year 2019, the success rate did not exceed 10% and was around 12% in the year 2017. In the year 2016, the success rate was as low as 6.4%, marking a minimum threshold. The success rate increased to approximately 10% in the 2015 exams, while in the year 2014, the success rate was higher than subsequent years, reaching 13%, while it was around 9.5%.

In addition to these low success rates, indicators of poverty and distance from the center also contribute tragically to the ranking of success rates in the Mauritanian regions. The recorded figures for the year 2019 show that the capital Nouakchott had the highest rates within these already low percentages. The rankings are as follows:

1. Nouakchott West: Success rate: 12.2%.
2. Nouadhibou: Success rate: 9.4%.
3. Tiris Zemmour: Success rate: 9%.
4. Nouakchott South: Success rate: 8.8%.
5. Tagant: Success rate: 7.8%.
6. Nouakchott North: Success rate: 3%.
7. Hodh Ech Chargui: Success rate: 6.1%.
8. Inchiri: Success rate: 5.9%.
9. Trarza: Success rate: 5.5%.
10. Adrar: Success rate: 5.1%.
11. Gorgol: Success rate: 4.6%.
12. Hodh El Gharbi: Success rate: 3.3%.
13. Brakna: Success rate: 2.8%.
14. Assaba: Success rate: 2.7%.
15. Guidimaka: Success rate: 1.7%.

The doctor and diplomat "Rasin Tory" is considered the first Mauritanian to obtain this degree in 1947, followed by the famous historian Mohammed Ould Mulud Ould Dadah in 1948. In 1949, his cousin, former president "El-Moctar Ould Dadah," also obtained the degree, and then it began to expand thereafter. The Senegalese Cheikh Anta Diop University was the exclusive supervisor of the baccalaureate in Mauritania until the mid-1970s when the success rate reached around 85.25% in 1974. However, it decreased to 50% in the following year, before rising to 56% in 1980, and then dropping to 33.26% in the subsequent year. It experienced a slight increase in the years 1983 (36%) and 1987 (40%) before declining again. The success rate in the baccalaureate was linked to the number of candidates, as the wider the candidate pool, the lower the success rate significantly.

▶ Source: [www.tiguend.com](http://www.tiguend.com)

**Celebrating the Birthday of His Majesty King Charles III in Nouakchott**



The British Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Colin Wells, confirmed that companies in his country are working to attract investments and innovations in the field of energy to Mauritania. His remarks came during a ceremony organized by the embassy in the capital, Nouakchott, on the evening of June 8, on the occasion of the United Kingdom's celebration of the birthday of King Charles III.

Colin emphasized that the United Kingdom appreciates our country's efforts in bringing peace, security, and development to the Sahel region, which is facing security disturbances, especially in Mali and Burkina Faso. He also acknowledged Mauritania's presidency of the Sahel Group and its engagement in bringing peace, security, and development to the region. Furthermore, the British ambassador praised Mauritania's hosting of Malian refugees fleeing violence in the "Imbera" camp in Bassiknou, eastern Mauritania.

The Mauritanian-British relations have witnessed rapid progress, especially after the opening of the British Embassy in Nouakchott and the entry of BP into the Mauritanian market to exploit the **Ahmeyim** gas field.

**Russia Preparing to Host the Second Russia-Africa Summit**

The Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Boris Anatolyevich Zelikov, confirmed that the visit of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to our country last February constituted a strong impetus for bilateral political dialogue between Nouakchott and Moscow. These remarks were made during a ceremony organized by the Russian Embassy in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation on June 12, 2023.

The Russian Ambassador in our country indicated that the visit of Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov was the first of its kind since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two

countries in 1964, reflecting the level of bilateral relations between Moscow and Nouakchott. The Ambassador added that Russia has consistently defended the interests of African countries and has helped enhance them within the international organization. Today, Russia is reactivating its foreign policy towards the African continent.

Furthermore, the Russian Federation is preparing to host the second Russia-Africa Summit, scheduled to take place between the 26th and 29th of July in the city of St. Petersburg. This summit will discuss new tools for trade, investment, supply chains, and payments cooperation, and will include various events, including a business forum.

The event at the Russian Embassy was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammed Salem Ould Merzoug, Alia bint Yahya Menkous, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Director-General of the Directorate of Bilateral Cooperation at the Ministry, Mohamed El-Hanshi Al-Katib, Assistant Director for Ceremonies at the Ministry, Amina bint Ashraf Ahmed, and several members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Mauritania.

**Mauritania as an Ideal Location for Green Hydrogen**



Northwestern Mauritania is an ideal location for green hydrogen production.

Prime Minister Mohamed Ould Bilal stated that Northwestern Mauritania has high potential for the continuous production of renewable energy, "making it an ideal location for green hydrogen production."

During the Global Conference on Transparency in Extractive Industries, held in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, Ould Bilal confirmed that Mauritania possesses enormous potential in the field of renewable energy, estimated by the International Renewable Energy Agency at over four gigawatts.

The Prime Minister added that 500 gigawatts of this potential could be developed immediately while respecting the strictest environmental standards. Ould Bilal explained, "Thanks to the

significant mining and renewable energy resources that Mauritania possesses, we aspire to make it a center for low-carbon energy and green minerals."

**Deporting Undocumented Immigrants to their Countries**

Among them are Mauritians... the United States is considering deporting immigrants to their countries. The Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol, Raul Ortiz, stated that the United States is planning to deport undocumented immigrants to their countries after their arrest on U.S. soil.

The U.S. official explained in a tweet on his Twitter account that his country is facing challenges with several governments, including Mauritania, in order to establish repatriation programs for those who are detained on U.S. soil back to their countries.

Ortiz further added that Mauritania is among ten countries where the number of incoming immigrants has increased tenfold compared to the same period last year, 2022.

**Donation of Four Ambulances**

The Japanese government provided donation consisting of four ambulances designated for hospitals in Kiffa, Atar, Kaédi, and the Mother and Child Center. This support aims to enhance the emergency healthcare system, particularly in the field of epidemic control, and improve the healthcare system in remote areas of the country. The equipment handover ceremony took place under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the Mauritanian Ministry of Health, Mohamed Amin Mohamed Al-Haj, accompanied by Japanese Ambassador in Nouakchott, Uchida Tatsukuni, on the afternoon of June 14.

The event was attended by the Director of Cooperation and Planning, the Director of Infrastructure, Equipment, and Supplies, and some assistants to the Japanese Ambassador in Mauritania.



## International O'meme Film Festival: Gateway for Emerging Mauritanian Talents



**Second Edition: June 23-27, 2023**

The Key interviewed the young Mauritanian Aziz Elman (23 years old), who recently won the Grand Prize at the International O'meme Film Festival for Cinema and Human Rights.

Q1: Tell us about yourself.

A1: I am a Mauritanian young man, like any other young person, who has ambitions and goals. I was born in 5 October, 2000 in the city of "Aouinet Azbel" in eastern Mauritania. As a child, I loved drawing, and as I grew up, my love for art gradually developed. At a certain stage in my life, I became attracted to photography, sound, and especially cinema. I started studying film production in 2019, and I wrote, directed, and produced my first short film, "Noise," in 2023!

Q2: What educational stages have you reached?

A2: I am a university student in the Master's degree stage.

Q3: Do you have any specific hobbies?

A3: Yes, I enjoy sports, drawing, writing, and art in general.

Q4: Was entering the field of cinema a coincidence, or a natural result of your passion for this field?

A4: It was not a coincidence. It was a passion for the field and also an attempt to prove to the relevant authorities that the Mauritanian youth deserve to be in the spotlight and deserve support. They are also capable of achieving their goals by any available means!

Q5: How was your initial experience

in the film industry, and how did you overcome the difficulties you faced?

A5: Of course, beginnings are always

difficult in everything, even in this field. But filmmaking in the world is the hardest thing, so what about it in Mauritania? The most challenging stage I faced was the film production stage because I didn't find any entity willing to provide a budget for the film or support it at some point. It was personal efforts and the help of my dear friends. We tried to overcome the difficulties through perseverance, utilizing available resources, and not giving in to despair. Thanks to God, we were able to draw attention by winning the Grand Prize.

Q6: What was your feeling when you won the Grand Prize at the International O'meme Film Festival for your film "Noise," and does that give you motivation to achieve the best?

A6: It was a beautiful and indescribable feeling. We thank God for his good planning. To receive the fruit of a year-long effort is a beautiful and psychologically comforting thing. Also, from this platform, I would like to thank the management of the International O'meme Festival, especially Mr. Sidi Mohamed Sheiguer, the Festival Director, for organizing the festival and facing the most difficult circumstances! Of course, winning the first place does not mean stopping at this point. This is just the beginning, and this award is a real motivation for me to continue learning from my mistakes, and evolve!

Q7: Can you give us an overview of your film "Noise," which was screened at the International O'meme Film Festival?

A7: The film "Noise" is about the internal turmoil and emotions experienced by anyone who has lost their support.

Q8: What is your impression of the cinema in Mauritania in general? Is it progressing slowly or keeping up with the times?

A8: Mauritanian cinema had reached international recognition at some point, but unfortunately, we haven't capitalized on that opportunity to develop it further, and it is currently in its worst state. There are no movie theaters, no institutes or schools for learning like in neighboring countries, and not even support for the youth who are trying! From this platform, I call on the relevant authorities to pay attention to the active youth in the field, adopt their ideas, and listen to them because they are creative and deserve any opportunity!

Q9: What solutions does Mauritanian cinema need to reach the pinnacle of success?

A9: I don't think I am qualified to answer this question because those who have the answer to this question are the ones who have achieved international recognition and have gone through several experiences, like the renowned director Abderrahmane Sissako and others. But from my point of view, I believe Mauritanian cinema needs to focus on the creators, especially those with unheard voices. It also requires the establishment of institutes for learning and the overall development of the field and its practitioners.

Q10: What does this only English-language newspaper in Mauritania mean to you?

A10: We thank the people behind the newspaper for their interest in youth-related topics! This is how the role of media should be. It means a lot to me that a creative team from my country stands out with an idea different from the rest and is striving to develop it.

Q11: Do you have any final words for Mauritanian youth in general and those interested in the film industry in particular?

A11: I don't think I am qualified to advise the youth because every individual has their own circumstances and obstacles they face. I can only advise them to work hard, persevere, and continue to strive to achieve their goals. As for those interested in the field, I advise them to learn film writing before filmmaking and not to give up under any circumstances.

**Thanks**



By Nouha Hamadi  
Specializes in Business law and Institutions

## Does Immigration to America Open New Economic and Social Horizons for Mauritanian Youth?

Regional migration during and prior to French colonization of West Africa was a key factor in the formation of what would become Mauritania. Today, this migration, now combined with migration overseas, is a central part of the country's economic development. In this context, it is worth considering the impacts of the increasing number of Mauritanians immigrating to the United States and Europe

Mauritanian youth represent the majority of society and are its driving force. They are a human resource upon which the process of development and renewal relies at every stage. Mauritania, being a young state, is rich in natural resources such as copper, gold, iron, gas, and fish. Successive governments have implemented policies aimed at creating promising job opportunities to attract the unemployed and graduates from national universities. The unemployment rate reached 12.2% according to official statistics, in a country with a population of 4.3 million people. However, these policies have failed to bring about significant changes in the face of social and economic crises.

### Social Crisis:

The limited opportunities and monopolization of employment by specific social groups have led Mauritanian youth to lose hope and trust in government policies. Migration has become an inevitable personal choice, especially for graduates seeking refuge from a perception of economic and social malaise in the country. Economic development and employment programs in Mauritania remain under the influence of traditional leaders, influential figures, and politicians who play different parts of society off each other. This situation has worsened over time.

According to some statistics, the number of migrants to the United States has reached 35,000 young, including women and pregnant women. The total cost of their travel amounts to 90 billion old ouguiyas, with the travel cost per person ranging from 2.5 to 3 million old ouguiyas.

### Lack of Preparation for Migration:

The vast majority of migrants and those seeking new opportunities lack training and experience. Only a few of them speak English, and they are unfamiliar with the customs and traditions of American society, which is considered

one of the most modern societies in the world. Additionally, they face differences in working hours and the challenges of adapting to the American climate compared to the African climate, among other factors.

### Solutions and Recommendations:

In reality, migration is a serious issue that indicates a dismal failure in development policies, despite significant resources invested by the state. Therefore, it necessitates offering necessary and urgent solutions, including:

- Directing the existing youth and talents towards agricultural production and providing training in this field, as any country that does not produce cannot address its problems, especially unemployment.
- Serious recruitment in giant institutions such as SNIM, Tasiast, road and port maintenance companies, and fish distribution companies.
- Regulating the private sector and formalizing employment contracts to ensure labor rights and security.
- Investing in the transportation sector and integrating Mauritanian youth into it.

### Conclusion:

Migration is a double-edged sword that troubles the world, especially in the Sahel region, which is an unstable security area. The void among youth makes them vulnerable to aimlessness and terrorism. Moreover, the economic cycle remains stagnant due to the lack of production. The labor force is one of the components necessary for the production process.

Hamma Ahmed Salem Hmeity Val  
Researcher

## Mohamed Muguet Becomes the National Assembly président

After their election... Get to know the deputies of the National Assembly and its secretaries.

The deputies of the National Assembly elected their president, secretaries, and financial manager during a public session on Wednesday.

The election results are as follows:

Deputies of the Assembly:

First Deputy: Moussa Damba Sou, from the Justice Party.

Second Deputy: Ahmedou Mohamed Mahfoudh Ould Mbale, from the "Tawassoul" Party.

Third Deputy: Othman Rasine Sankot, from the Union for Democracy and Progress Party.

Fourth Deputy: Fatimah Akhlift Ammar Habib, from the Justice Party.

Fifth Deputy: Islam Khatari Mohamed Jado, from the Justice Party.

Financial Manager: Mohamed Abdullah Al-Mami Al-Ghilani, from the Justice Party

Secretaries of the National Assembly:

First Secretary: Sheikh Mohamed Abdul Rahman Amin, from the National Democratic Alliance Party.

Second Secretary: Mohamed Abdullah Al-Talmoudi, from the Justice Party.

Third Secretary: Khalido Samba Sou, from the Alliance for Justice and Democracy/Renewal Movement Party.

Fourth Secretary: Yagri Biranti Soumari, from the Justice Party.

Fifth Secretary: Khadija Abdullah Wan, from the Justice Party.

## NATO Conference in Nouakchott

The Minister of Defense of Mauritania, Hanena Sidi, affirmed that this conference is being held in a regional and international context that witnesses numerous security and environmental challenges. Meanwhile, the G5 Sahel group has high hopes for the outcomes of this conference, which will contribute to enriching strategic thinking for the stability, progress, and prosperity of the Sahel region. His statement came during his supervision on the morning of June 21, at the Defense College, accompanied by the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mohamed Amin Abei, and General Habib Allah Ahmedou, the Assistant General Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, at the opening of the second meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Mauritania. The meeting was organized for the benefit of ambassadors, senior officers, and high-ranking officials in the country, within the framework of the partnership between our country and NATO.

On his part, General Ibrahim Fall Al-Shebani, the Commander of the Defense College for the G5 Sahel group, indicated that this conference will provide an opportunity for participants from different backgrounds and trainees at the Defense College to exchange ideas with specialized lecturers on NATO and its vision for the Sahel region and Africa. This forum, which lasts for three consecutive days, aims to enhance the level of participation for military and civilian personnel and promote the exchange of opinions on various security and developmental issues in general, as well as other strategic dimensions concerning our region, recent geopolitical developments, major challenges of today, and other related topics. The opening ceremony was attended by General Olivier Bitteman, the NATO Defense College Commander.

## Enslaving Jinn

Slavery was not limited only to humans, but the Jinn were believed to be enslaved by local theologians. For example, the ability to possess the true “secrecy of letters” means that the person was able to own slaves from the Jinn and get access to the astonishing Jinn world. A slave from Jinn could be used in so many different roles; for instance, such invisible slaves could be used to bring things from faraway places, spy on enemies, and even treat witchcraft victims. People who owned Jinn slaves became rich and well-respected in society because they possessed an incredible power to benefit allies or harm enemies. So, they enjoyed their huge privileges.

Some of the slave masters were married to the Jinn and claimed to have intimately lived with them. They had children that could not be seen by mankind with the naked eye. There has been much talk about the benefits of intermarriages with Jinn, working with them, and even having children with them. Sharif is one of the theologian descendants in the White Village. He was known for being married to a fairy for thirty years and had seven children with her. He always lived alone with his invisible family members. He became an example of marital happiness. Sharif was able to train, frame, and employ his own children to help him in his businesses. It was a good idea since the Jinn had the power to “fold earth” and bring products from remote regions in a blink of an eye. They could fly invisibly. It was a world of mystery managed by an elite of theologians in the village.

Sharif was proud that he had been able to roam the kingdoms of the Jinn in the heavens and the earth, enjoying himself and saving the lives of close followers. He was widely viewed as a connection between two different worlds: mankind, and Jinn. Therefore, Sharif had his own followers who tended to bring him expensive gifts, including animals, clothes, food, and much more in exchange for personal protection. In addition, Sharif had incredible powers in treating illnesses such as epilepsy, depression, bad luck, and envy.

There was a well-known side in the village where only the Jinn lived and no one else could even trespass. These areas were highly mountainous and interspersed with dunes. Such areas were known for being homes to the kingdoms of the Jinn in the region. At night, people could see strange lights on the nearby mountains and sometimes sounds of celebrations, especially in the

season of dates. People believed that it was also the season of Jinn weddings, so the size of night celebrations of joy and fun had been increasingly rising, prompting some residents to claim that Jinn weddings were way more than the weddings in the village.

Some theologians were concerned, especially those who possessed the true “secrecy of the letters” because Jinn could outnumber mankind long term and take control of the village and shift the balance of power. This scenario was frightening to many local residents, especially when they were watching the signs of more Jinn weddings.

### Mystified marriage?

Sharif and a few others could go to the other side of the village at any time, especially at night during Jinn weddings, and bless them because of their intermarriage status and constant interactions for decades. For instance, Sharif had already children with the Jinn, so he perfectly knew their customs, traditions, and way of life. More than that, Sharif owned slaves from the Jinn; he said that they were facilitating every move of his life. He claimed that his Jinn in-laws would help him out a lot so he could be a more successful husband. He was being served wherever he went. For instance, he claimed that his clothes were being washed for him and food cooked. He did not have to do any household chores by himself. In short, Sharif was acting as an important connection between the visible and invisible residents of the village. His social privileges granted him important access to the two different worlds. He was always invited to important celebrations on the two sides of the village, and nobody ever dared to challenge his incredible powers.

Sharif said that his wife was still young because he married her when she was seven years old, but no humans were able to attend the marriage, so only the Jinn were present at the occasion. He later provided a physical description to friends and family, confirming that his wife was very beautiful with hair long, reaching for her feet whenever she stood up. She was fat (obesity is a beautiful thing in society), with blue eyes, and her skin was as white as milk. Sharif also added that his wife had only four fingers on each hand, which was evidence that she was a fairy, meaning she did not belong to visible beings. He explained that he had met her for the first time inside a nearby water well, and he fell in love with her right away at the first sight. The two kept in touch. A week later, the fairy invited him to the

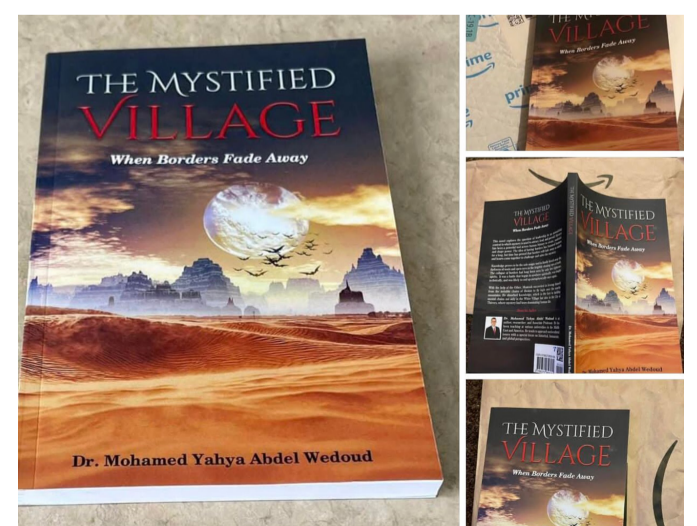
other side of the village in the evening. She was dressed as a bride surrounded by her family, and then a marriage ceremony was conducted in compliance with the Jinn’s marital rituals. Sharif mentioned that his marriage night was the happiest one in his entire lifetime.

Sharif confirmed that, according to what he learned of the hidden knowledge, it is not possible to have wives both humans and Jinn at the same time, so men must choose the right marriage that best works for them. It was simply because the level of cultural differences could not be reconciled.

Sharif would never be able to marry a human because he was first married to a Jinn. He would lose himself in case he decided to divorce his fairy who descended from a powerful tribe of Jinn. This was difficult to explain to his parents and cousins who insisted that he should marry one of his close relatives. At the same time, Sharif said that his wife did not oppose polygamy in her society, but she strongly opposed sharing her husband with non-Jinn women due to the immense differences in customs and traditions that separate the Jinn from humans. Sharif continued to argue that he had no choice but to keep his marriage with the fairy, despite the pressure from his family and cousins. In addition, he was planning to tie the knot with a second fairy.

There was a prevailing belief that people who break agreements with the Jinn would be subjected to a quick revenge; for example, they would lose one or two of their senses (sight, hearing...) or loved ones. A person also might suffer chronic illnesses including paralysis of a hand or a foot. Revenge can also target the psychological realm, so a person loses his/her mind and becomes insane. The potential Jinn revenge could target children as well, so they could be born with serious health problems, and nobody would be able to save their lives. Sharif wanted to make this clear to the members of his tribe, warning them to understand his household situation.

### The Mystified Village: When Borders Fade Away



## The Significance of Hajj and Eid al-Adha in Islam.

Hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam, is a pilgrimage to Mecca that every able Muslim must undertake at least once in their lifetime. It is considered the most spiritually profound event in one's life and it takes place in a sacred location—the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad. Central to this place is the Ka'ba, a cube-shaped building believed by Muslims to have been constructed by Abraham and his son Ishmael. It was in Mecca that the Prophet received his initial revelations during the early 7th century.

Even before the advent of Islam, Mecca held great importance as a pilgrimage site for various Arab tribes of north and central Arabia. Despite their belief in multiple deities, they would gather annually to worship Allah.

The Hajj encompasses a series of rituals that occur in and around Mecca over a period of five to six days. One such ritual is Tawaf, where pilgrims circumambulate the Ka'ba seven times in an anti-clockwise direction. By performing this rite correctly, it is believed that sins, wrongdoings, and transgressions are cleansed, granting Muslims a fresh start.

Eid al-Adha, also known as the Festival of the Sacrifice, is celebrated on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, following the completion of Hajj. It commemorates the willingness of Prophet Abraham to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God. According to Islamic tradition, as Abraham prepared to carry out the sacrifice, God replaced his son with a ram, which was then offered as the sacrifice.

On the day of Eid al-Adha, Muslims worldwide gather for communal prayers, listen to sermons, and express gratitude to God. The occasion is marked by the sacrifice of an animal, typically a sheep, goat, cow, or camel, symbolizing Abraham's unwavering devotion to God.

By Yahya Mohamedou ABBE  
English Teacher

## Launch of the First Women's Football League in Mauritania with Wide Participation

On the evening of Sunday, June 18, 2023, the first Mauritanian women's league was inaugurated with the participation of the country's top sports teams.

The event took place at Sheikhah Bedia Stadium, with several teams representing the top Mauritanian clubs, which were required by the local football federation to establish women's teams in support of this segment of society.



The opening ceremony witnessed a significant attendance of fans, extensive media coverage, and great interest. Furthermore, the Mauritanian Football Federation had established a women's national team in 2019, which has participated in several continental and international tournaments.

Ahmed Yahya, the President of the Mauritanian Football Federation, highlighted the importance of women's football and its role in developing sports in general.

## Peace Forum in Nouakchott



The President of the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum, Sheikh Abdullah Bayyah, affirmed that the meeting aims to provide a platform for discussion, debate, and positive thinking in resolving crises. This comes within two different contexts: the first is a scheduled context that has been part of this forum's work since its inception, and the other is an urgent context regarding the coastal countries and the situation in Sudan. The speech of the President of the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum took place during the start of the consultations in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott, concerning the Sudanese crisis and the Sahel region. This occurred on the morning of June 19, under the slogan "And reconcile between yourselves," under the patronage of Mauritanian President Mohamed Cheikh El Ghazouani and under the supervision of Prime Minister Mohamed Bilal Masoud.

The Nouakchott consultation meeting to concluded on June 20. On the first day of the forum, participants attended the opening session and a recorded speech by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mohamed, in which he praised the role of scholars and religious leaders in promoting peace, prioritizing dialogue, and confronting arguments with arguments, far from violence, extremism, and hatred.

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Imprimerie Al Mazaya

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مطبعة المزايا مؤسسة موريتانية مختصة في مجال السحب الرقمي وعلى الأوفست يشمل حضور مطبعة المزايا المستوى الوطني، و مؤخرا البدء بطرق المستوى الدولي مطبعة المزايا تمثل قطب كفاءات فريد على المستوى الإفريقي، بالإضافة إلى طاقم فني مؤهل في مجالات التصميم ووضع اللمسات الأخيرة على المسحوب Finition

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- 3 - تطوير الشراكات المحلية
- 4 - تطوير خبرات العاملين
- 5 - الإمتثال للمتطلبات القانونية و البيئية