

# Gala dinner in aid of refugee children of Palestine planned

By a staff reporter

DUBAI — 'A Child A Promise' association will organise, in aid of the children of Palestine, a gala dinner on November 27 under the patronage of Princess Haya bint Al Hussain, wife of General Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and UAE Minister of Defence, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

Addressing a Press conference yesterday, Tania Sfeir, chairperson of the association, said that 'A Child A Promise' is a French association which aims at bringing psycho-social and educative support to the Palestinian children of the refugee camps in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon. The charity gala, which will be attended by business and distinguished personalities, aims at collecting funds to work for the creation of centres for children between the ages of 6 and 16 years in Khan Younes and Nablus.

She explained that the camp of Khan Younes consists of more or less 100,000 refugees, half of whom are under 18 years of age. Nablus holds the biggest refugee camp in the West Bank, the Balata camp with 22,000 people living on just one sq. metre. The three camps in Nablus approximately gather 30,000 people and the



Tania Sfeir speaking at a Press conference. — KT photo

centre planned there will be for three camps at Balata, Em and Askar.

"In the camps of Nablus, nothing has been done so far for the children," Sfeir disclosed. The two twin centres will be built in Khan Younes on 700 sq. metres of land already donated by the Municipality of Gaza.

"As for Nablus, 500 sq. metres offered by the UN Relief and Works Agency to the Askar camp is at our disposal. The centres will add three more floors of 250 sq. metres each level. Each centre will accommodate 450 children on a daily basis and in two shifts, in addition to housing the health, education, and cultural sections.

She pointed out that the association endeavours to enlist children between the ages of 6 and 16 in animation centres where they can express their feelings through games and learn to live their childhood like it ought to be lived. The reopening of seven educative animation centres directed by the Enfants Réfugiés du Monde (Refugee Children of the World) is already present in the camps of Gaza. These centres were compelled to shut their doors because of lack of means. The association continues to be the sole funding source of these centre.

## Speeding offences on rise in capital

By a staff reporter

ABU DHABI — Traffic violations in Abu Dhabi are on the rise, with around 20,000 offences registered in just one week, traffic police reported yesterday.

A statement issued by the Traffic and Patrols Department at the General Directorate of Police Operations of Abu Dhabi Police warned that traffic violations are alarmingly increasing, mainly speeding.

"Traffic violations are alarmingly increasing especially speeding and exceeding speed limits on internal streets of Abu Dhabi city and its outskirts. This has been noted after the holy month of Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr holidays," the statement said.

Col Ghaith Al Zaabi, Director of Traffic and Patrols Department, said the number of violations registered last week alone — from

November 12 to 18 — totalled 20,000.

Offenders were spotted by radars and surveillance cameras placed at junctions and traffic signals, in addition to traffic patrols who are deployed round-the-clock along-side the roads.

He said speeding violations topped the list with 16,620 offences. Out of these, 2,024 were caught driving at double speed the speed limit. "This increases the risk of tragic accidents caused by reckless drivers, which not only puts their lives at risk, but also those of other road users and pedestrians," Col. Zaabi noted.

He said that his department would come up with more stringent measures to deal with offenders who never learn lessons. "We will intensify monitoring on the road to check on uncivilised behaviour," he warned.

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