

Daniel Pipes: An Apology

On February 9, 2007, the *Muslim Weekly* published an article, "World civilisation conference: Professor Tariq Ramadan on Islamic threat," under the byline of Dr. Mozammel Haque, concerning a speech given by Professor Ramadan on 20 January 2007. We reported that he accused Professor Daniel Pipes, an American specialist on the Middle East, of lying in his speech to the same conference about the religion of an Egyptian Muslim. We now understand that Professor Pipes spoke accurately and that he did not lie. We retract what we wrote about him and apologise to Professor Pipes for any distress caused by our article.

Pakistan blocks YouTube



Landmark surgery for young girl's facial tumour

A three-year-old Afghan girl born with a potentially deadly facial tumour has been flown from Kabul to Rome to be operated on by a team of Western surgeons, as part of a pioneering project.

Shabana suffers from a particular form of skin disorder in which tumours develop along nerves, causing severe damage and premature death if left untreated.

The disease, called neurofibromatosis, is common in Afghanistan.

But due to lack of medical expertise and modern equipment, it is claiming the lives of many children across the country.

Shabana arrived with her father, Janat Gul, from Kabul to Rome following a campaign by Italian photojournalist, Kash Gabriele Torsello.

Torsello, 37, first met Shabana by chance in 2005 while photographing in Kabul.

He organised Shabana's first operation in the city when she was aged just nine months old.



While documenting the everyday life of "ordinary" Afghans, he was kidnapped in Helmand province in October

released after 23 days. Since his release, Torsello has been working to develop a programme of medical and

collaborations between Italian and Afghan hospitals," said Mr Torsello. "The little girl's surgical operation offered an important opportunity for European and Afghan hospitals to come together and collaborate with each other."

Shabana is the youngest of Janat Gul's four children.

"It is a blessing in disguise. When God wants to help you, He provides all the means," said Janat Gul, who works loading and unloading trucks in Kabul.

"I am a poor person and I couldn't dream of this happening to us. I wish we had all these facilities in our own country."

But many others still suffer and die from common curable diseases.

In a country where the infant and child mortality rate is among the highest in the world, Shabana's trip to Italy is a rare event.

It is hoped that Shabana's operation will prove a milestone in a series of medical exchanges.