

SNAPSHOTS



Children pictured on their way to school on Oct 31.



Children play at the boundary of a war zone near Damascus on Oct 31.

Hope returns to Damascus

Residents are determined to restore peace in the Syrian capital by going about their daily routines in city neighborhoods ravaged by war

By CHINA DAILY

After years of fierce clashes, aircraft bombings and missile attacks, smiling faces of the old and young have returned to Damascus, the capital of Syria, as seen by our photographer Wang Jing during his visit in late October.

Bullet holes in vehicles and walls are evident across the old section of Damascus, and wreckages of burned-out houses and gardens have yet to be cleared. But bazaars like the Hamidiyeh are back open day and night, the voices of imams echo from mosques, while youths pray instead of shooting at one another, children return to schools, and elderly scholars are telling legendary stories in time-tested cafes.

People are again picking up the saying that "if heaven exists in the human world, Damascus must be there to be found." Hopefully, the peace today will last forever.



Residents walk among the ruins at the Hamidiyeh bazaar. PHOTOS BY WANG JING / CHINA DAILY ASIA WEEKLY



Youngsters cycle outside the walls of the Umayyad Mosque on Oct 30.



Business picks up for a prosthesis factory.



A refugee from Haiti receives treatment in a hospital on Oct 29.



A 13-year-old girl with a newly fixed prosthetic leg on Oct 31.