

THE FRIDAY BULLETIN

The Weekly Muslim Update



A Publication of the Jama Mosque Nairobi

Darul Irshad Centre to reopen in 2026 after 11-year closure

The Darul Irshad Centre, one of the country's foremost educational institutions for Muslim reverts, is set to reopen in January 2026, marking a significant milestone in the Islamic education landscape.

The institution, located in Nguluni, Machakos County, will resume learning activities after an 11-year closure, with an initial intake of 60 students. The centre, which provided basic Islamic knowledge to new Muslims, was shut down by the government in 2014.

Students will undertake a three-month course focusing on foundational Islamic studies, aimed at equipping them with the knowledge required to practise the tenets of Islam in their daily lives. The curriculum—covering the fundamental principles of Islam, teachings from the Qur'an and Hadith (the traditions of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him), as well as insights into the life of the Prophet—has been approved by the Muslim Education Council (MEC).

"We are focused on empowering new Muslims with sound Islamic knowledge that fosters a proper understanding of their faith, while also equipping them with practical skills to help them sustain their livelihoods and become productive citizens," said Ali Khalid, Chief Executive Officer of Al Ameen Mosque.

In addition to religious instruction, the centre will offer vocational training programmes open to residents of Nguluni and surrounding communities. These will include plumbing, masonry,

carpentry and electrical installation. An agricultural project incorporating poultry, fish and crop farming is also planned.

Khalid noted that many individuals who embrace Islam face challenges in understanding the faith, sometimes adopting practices that fall outside the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah—the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

He expressed appreciation to the government and local authorities for their support in facilitating the reopening of the centre. "We have maintained constant engagement and dialogue with the authorities, and we remain committed to ensuring that the centre fulfils its mandate of empowering new Muslims with authentic Islamic knowledge," he said.

The Darul Irshad Centre began as a residential facility along Murang'a Road in Nairobi, where it provided basic Islamic education to new converts. As enrolment grew, the institution relocated to Nguluni to better accommodate its expanding student population.

Darul Irshad Centre is a project of Al Ameen Mosque, located near Juja Road Estate in Nairobi. The mosque also manages the Kangundo Children's Orphanage in Kangundo, Machakos County, and Al Ameen Academy—an integrated Islamic primary and junior secondary school with learning centres in Juja Road, Kitusuru and South C.

In Today's Issue

1 Spiritual Productivity Tips to Help You Benefit From Rajab

The month of Rajab comes at an extremely important time of the year for you. It means that Ramadhan is near!

2 CS Duale sounds alarm over rising drug abuse in Isiolo

Health CS Aden Duale has raised alarm over the growing drug menace in Isiolo County, calling for urgent, coordinated action by leaders, parents and the wider community to curb substance abuse among the youth.

3 Discover, Learn, and Play – The Islamic Way!

Boost your Islamic knowledge with our weekly Crossword Puzzle, Knowledge Quiz, and Ayah of the Week.

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Direct Aid Free Eye Camp restores vision to hundreds in Kakamega



One of the patients (centre) smiles for a photo with doctors and volunteers after successfully undergoing eye surgery during a free eye camp organized by Direct Aid Kenya in Kakamega. The camp restored sight to many who could not afford the cost of surgery. (FULL STORY ON PAGE 7).

Scan Here to Give Us Your Feedback!



Muslims urged to avoid Non-Islamic religious festivities

Muslims have been advised against participating in non-Muslim religious festivities and celebrations, with Islamic scholars warning that such practices conflict with core Islamic teachings.

Speaking to The Friday Bulletin, Sheikh Abubakar Bini said joining others in celebrating their religious festivals is contrary to Islamic belief, urging Muslims to remain firmly attached to the teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Sheikh Bini, who is the North Rift Chairman of the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya (CIPK), explained that Islam clearly distinguishes between permissible general social interactions and participation in specific religious festivals. He noted that religious festivals are integral to the beliefs and acts of worship of particular communities, and participation in them may be seen as endorsing beliefs that

conflict with Islamic monotheism (Tawheed). "Congratulating non-Muslims on their religious holidays, such as saying 'Merry Christmas', is viewed by many scholars as potentially implying approval of underlying beliefs associated with those celebrations, some of which contradict fundamental Islamic tenets, including the belief in the Trinity or that 'Issa bin Maryam (Jesus, peace be upon him) is the son of God,'" he said.

He emphasized that Muslims are required to prioritize pleasing Allah over pleasing people and to remain mindful that their actions do not compromise their faith or dilute their distinct Islamic identity.

The CIPK official further lamented that some Muslims engage in practices that violate Islamic teachings, including buying and exchanging Christmas gifts and sending greeting cards. Quoting from the Qur'an, he cited Surah Al-Mumtahanah (60:1): "O you who believe! Take not My

enemies and your enemies as friends, showing affection towards them."

Sheikh Bini reiterated that Islam permits Muslims to celebrate only two religious festivals: Eid ul-Fitr, observed at the end of the month of Ramadhan, and Eid ul-Adha, marked on the 10th day of the Islamic month of Dhul Hijjah.

"There is no doubt that these other celebrations are haram because they involve imitation of non-believers. It is well known that Muslims have no festivals apart from Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and the weekly 'Eid', which is Friday (Yawm al-Jumu'ah)," he said.

However, he clarified that while participation in non-Islamic religious festivals is prohibited, Islamic teachings encourage Muslims to maintain kindness, justice, and good relations with non-Muslim neighbors, colleagues, and family members in general worldly and social matters.

MoE reopens KJSEA placement revision portal amid parents' concerns

The Ministry of Education has announced it will reopen the Kenya Junior School Education Assessment (KJSEA) placement revision portal from December 23, giving parents and learners a five-day window to make amendments.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Omba said the move is intended to allow learners to revise their choices so they better align with their interests and academic performance. He added that any concerns should be channelled through junior school heads, with approvals subject to available capacity in senior secondary schools.

The decision follows widespread dissatisfaction among parents over the placement of Grade 10 learners in senior secondary schools. Many parents who received placement notifications on Saturday, December 20, questioned the criteria used, while others reported that the automated system had failed to provide feedback. Some parents said repeated attempts to access their children's placement results were unsuccessful despite using the correct assessment numbers. Others received automated messages stating: "Dear learner, the requested information is unavailable, or the assessment number does not exist. Con-

firm that your assessment number is accurate." One parent expressed frustration, saying the same assessment number had been used to access results earlier. "How will I explain to my child that his results are unavailable?" the parent asked. Additional concerns have been raised over learners being placed in schools far from their places of residence, a situation parents say could be stressful for the students.

The latest update comes two days after the Ministry of Education officially released senior secondary school placement results for Grade 10 learners.

CS Duale sounds alarm over rising drug abuse in Isiolo

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale has raised alarm over the growing drug menace in Isiolo County, calling for urgent, coordinated action by leaders, parents and the wider community to curb substance abuse among the youth.

Drug abuse in the county has reached worrying levels, with a new substance locally known as "Kete" reportedly gaining popularity among young people. The drug, believed to be a mixture of heroin and morphine, is said to be spreading rapidly and having devastating effects on users.

Speaking on Sunday during a WASO Daawa/Ulamaa League event held at Ayo Village in Isiolo County, CS Duale expressed deep concern over the increasing use of heroin-related drugs, locally referred to as Kete. He warned that the substance is destroying the lives of young people and is increasingly affecting women.

Duale noted that drug abuse has long been a serious challenge in Isiolo, contrib-

uting to the rise of a hopeless generation. He emphasized the need for concerted efforts and practical measures by leaders and parents to reverse the trend and protect the youth from falling into drug addiction. With a growing number of young men and women reportedly hooked on drugs, the Cabinet Secretary called for firm and coordinated action to combat substance abuse in the county.

He urged Isiolo leaders to intensify the fight against drugs, substance abuse and immorality among young people, stressing the importance of positive values in fostering societal growth. "Drugs and immorality are destroying our societies. There is an urgent need for collective action by all stakeholders to address this growing challenge, which is increasingly affecting even Muslim communities," Duale said.

The CS also called on parents to play a more proactive role in guiding their children and shielding them from drugs and other harmful influences. "Parents must be actively involved in nurturing their children

and working closely with other stakeholders to confront drug and substance abuse," he added.

Duale further underscored the importance of unity, peaceful coexistence and responsible leadership in accelerating development in Isiolo. He expressed concern over leaders engaging in public disputes on social media, describing such conduct as shameful and a misuse of public resources that should instead be directed toward development and service delivery.

He offered to mediate reconciliation efforts among Isiolo leaders, saying he was ready at any time to bring them together and help resolve longstanding political differences for the sake of the county's future.

On cultural matters, CS Duale urged residents to uphold Islamic values, cautioning against celebrations such as "Borana Night," "Somali Night," and "Sakuye Night," which he said contradict Islamic teachings.

6 Spiritual productivity tips to help you benefit from Rajab

By Khawlah bint Yahya

Some Interesting Facts About Rajab

The month of Rajab is called Rajab Al-Haram (Arabic for: "the Sacred Rajab"), because it's one of the four sacred months, during which fighting is prohibited.

It's also called Rajab Al-Fard (Arabic for: "the Solitary Rajab") because it's separated from the other three successive sacred months (Dhul-Qi'dah, Dhul-Hijjah and Muharram). It comes five months after them.

Before Islam, the Arabs used to slaughter a sacrifice during Rajab as an act of worship towards their idols. When Islam came people were taught that sacrifices were to be offered only to Allah. Alhamdulillah for our logical deen!

Are You Conscious of Your Actions?

Rajab (and the other three months) are called sacred for two reasons:

1. Because fighting therein is forbidden unless initiated by the enemy;
2. Because transgression of the sacred limits therein is worse than at other times.

Allah says: "Indeed, the number of months with Allah is twelve [lunar] months in the register of Allah [from] the day He created the heavens and the earth; of these, four are sacred. That is the correct religion [i.e., way], so do not wrong yourselves during them..." (Surah At-Tawbah 9:36)

Wronging yourself refers to committing sins and having wrong belief. So why should we pay attention to the sanctity of these four months? Because Allah selected them for a special status and has forbidden us to commit sins out of respect for their sanctity.

Sins committed at this time are even worse, even though committing bad deeds is forbidden during the whole year! We honor whatever Allah and the Prophet honor.

The only way you can make sure you do not wrong yourself is to be conscious of your deeds. How many times do we "relax" and loosen up in our worship?

Let's use these sacred months, given to us by the Creator of time, to take account of ourselves! Think about the state of your heart. Reflect on your life and deeds. Have I been aware of what I've been saying and doing to others? What is my relationship with the Quran? Have I given any priority in my life to learning and understanding it?

Ramadhan Preparation

Another thing is that the month of Rajab comes at an extremely important time of the year for you. It means that Ramadhan is near! While some specific acts of worship in Rajab are disputed (like specific prayers and dua, or singling out this month for visiting graves), you can do many good deeds to benefit and prepare for your favorite guest: Ramadhan!

6 Spiritual Productivity Tips to Help You Benefit

1. Think about Your Intention

I can't remind myself often enough: think about your intention! Myself— and you— should apply these tips with the intention to mentally and physically prepare for Ramadhan!

2. Seek Forgiveness, and Forgive!

Remember: don't wrong yourself. We all sin. Strive for a tawbah nasooah— a sincere repentance. Ask Allah to forgive you, so you can start Ramadhan with a heart that feels light and strong enough to worship well. Also, try to forgive others for the wrong they've done you so your heart won't have grudges or ill-feeling and will be free to enjoy worship in Ramadhan!

3. Fast Some Extra Days

There's no authentic narration from the Prophet nor companions stating that there's a special virtue in fasting in Rajab. The same fasting is prescribed as in the other months, for example Mondays and Thursdays and the mid three days of the lunar month or fasting alternate days.

There is no better way to prepare mentally and physically than to fast some extra days. So if you've never fasted on Monday or Thursday, start at least with one day a week!

4. Deprive Yourself

Start training yourself to resist by not indulging in things your nafs desires. Have a simple dinner over the weekend, for example, or avoid biscuits and sweets for a change. This will set the tone for you to control your nafs in Ramadhan.

5. Think about Your Charity

In this sacred month do charitable deeds consciously and with the intention to please Allah. Think about good deeds you can do. Help someone, cook for someone,

give a compliment, make your mother smile, and even trying to stay away from a bad habit (like watching too much television)!

6. Make Dua

Ask Allah for His forgiveness and to bless us to reach Ramadhan. Ask Allah to accept your past Ramadhans.

A Beautiful Note On Choosing: You Have A Mission! Remember how beautiful Allah selects with the greatest wisdom? He chose His messengers, His books and... He chose you! Allah says:

"He has chosen (selected) you (Mus-



choose you; there's a reason why He selected you. He saw in you something that could fulfill the mission of this ummah. The majority of those on earth are not chosen, but you're part of the small selection when you submit yourself to Him. This is both a great honor and a great responsibility.

To conclude, we are now in a great season of goodness. We have to seize these days to bring ourselves closer to Almighty Allah by doing as many of good deeds as we can and avoiding all prohibitions. Every good deed counts. In one beautiful hadith, the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) says:

"Do not belittle any good deed, even if it is just to meet your fellow Muslim with a cheerful face." (Muslim)

May Allah accept all our good deeds, ameen.

From the Holy Qur'an Ayah of the week

Theme: Repentance

Say, 'O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful."

(Surah Az-Zumar 39:53)



How can Muslim women live the Sunnah today?

By Sadaf Farooqi

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is Allah's last Messenger to establish Islam on earth as guidance for humankind before the final reckoning. He was the leader of Muslim Ummah; their guide and role model. Almighty Allah guided the Prophet Muhammad's actions, both personal and public, so much so that he became the epitome of lofty, righteous conduct and character. The first Muslims emulated, imitated, and admired the Prophet by incorporating his actions completely into their own practical lives.

"Say: If you love Allah, then follow me, Allah will love you and forgive you your sins." (Surah Al Imran 3: 31)

Challenges of the Contemporary World

The Prophet's Companions followed the Sunnah automatically and wholeheartedly. Now, times have changed, and following the Prophet's Sunnah in the everyday life has gradually become quite a challenge for today's Muslims. Here are only a few reasons for that:

1- Modernity

Advances in science, aviation, technology and industrialization have rendered life fast-paced and hectic. Many consider it primitive to follow methods that are "obsolete" viz discovered centuries ago, instead of the result of some modern research, scientific findings or data study. It is a "modern" fashion, for example, to shave off the beard, instead of growing it.

2- Peer pressure and corporate culture

Everyone nowadays works for a living – even the elderly, women, teenagers, and sometimes children. Lives revolve around career rat races and corporate ladder ascension. People are reluctant to compro-

mise on careers when practice of a Sunnah becomes an obstacle in them. For example, a Muslim woman might not be able to wear hijab at her workplace because of its strict employee dress code, and might need to protest to lengthen her skirt according to Islamic injunctions.

3- Pressure to 'assimilate'

Muslims living in non-Muslim majority areas are constantly under the pressure to prove the steadfastness of their faith, or else relinquish it for the secular lifestyle. Adherence to strict halal dietary laws, for example, might be a challenge, if no other food alternatives are available.

Sending children to public schools might undermine their religious upbringing; however, home schooling poses the risk of social isolation. A Muslim who refuses to drink "socially" viz not attending banquets that serve alcohol as per Prophet Muhammad's instructions, might eventually be relinquished by his social circle altogether.

4- Ethnic Culture and Tradition

Many Muslims who want to practice Islam face pressure from older generations of Muslims in their own geographical and ethnic environment. The older generation sometimes give preference to culture over the Prophet's Sunnah.

5- Invasion by Technology

Technological devices and information sharing have made it easy to view pictures, videos and other content anywhere, at any time. Explicit and impermissible content is no exception. Muslims today face the challenge of how to follow some Sunnahs of the Prophet despite the difficulties surrounding them. This includes lowering the gaze when provocative pictures of women

appear even on cell phones whilst reading the news.

6- Deviant Islamic Group

Unfortunately, some groups among Muslims have fallen into innovations in Islam. Innovations are those religious practices that have no basis in Islam; which the Prophet (PBUH) did not endorse. Whenever someone falls into practicing innovations, he relinquishes the Sunnah.

Can Muslim Women Overcome These Challenges?

Overcoming the above challenges to stick to and follow the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is an uphill task.

A Muslim nowadays has to not just guard his or her faith from the onslaught of modernism and the prevalence of more fitnah (worldly allurements), but he also has to strive to prove, through his actions, that Islam is practical and easy to implement in all times. In increasingly secular societies, religion has been divorced from politics and government; progress and advancement is now synonymous with secularism and lack of religion.

Challenges of Muslim Women in the Modern Life

Muslim women are ardent followers of the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad as well.

However, those teachings of his Sunnah that are relevant to men are not supposed to be followed by women; the Prophetic teachings clearly marked the different requirements of the roles of both genders in society. Today, the greatest challenge Muslim women face on a global level, when they choose to practically live the Sunnah as a way of life, is the assumption that they are oppressed by Muslim men

Continued To Back Page

JAMIA MOSQUE BURSARY 2026 GRADE-10 INTAKE

The JMC Education Committee invites applications from suitable qualified and eligible student for the grade 10 scholarship 2026 award. The applicants for this limited number of scholarships must meet the following criteria: -

- Must have sat for the 2025 Kenya Junior School Education Assessment (KJSEA) and obtained at least a **MEETING EXPECTATION I (ME-I)** grade and above.
- Be an orphan or from a family with **extreme** financial needs.
- Must have been admitted to Grade 10 in a Public School.

Application Procedure

Fill in the JMC Bursary Forms which are available at Jamia Library or can be downloaded at Jamia website: www.jamiamosque.co.ke/bursary

The following documents must be attached to the form: -

1. Copy of (KJSEA) Results Slip.
2. Copy of the grade 10 Admission Letter.
3. Parents ID/Death Certificate (Copy).
4. Hand Written Application Letter by the applicant/student.

This sponsorship will benefit the successful applicants through **Grades 10,11,12** on the basis of the student's academic performance and disciplinary record. Furthermore, successful **grade 12 graduates** from this group will also be eligible to receive upon application, partial University funding from Jamia Mosque's Education Committee. Please deliver your application to the Jamia Mosque Library or send it to:

The Secretary General: P.O Box 100786-00101, Nairobi

Light of Knowledge Quiz

The following Surahs begin
with 'Sabbaha lillahi'
except?

- A Surah Al-Hadid
- B Surah Al-Mulk
- C Surah Al-Hashr

Answer to be revealed in the next
issue

Last week's answer was choice C :
" Surah Muhammad "

Converts – 5 ways to overcome guilt this Christmas

By Danielle LoDuca

While you go about your days as usual, there's a strange feeling that begins to creep into your subconscious. It starts somewhere in November, and increases for weeks. Maybe it's the atmospheric Christmas music seeping into your ears while you pump gas and shop for groceries. Maybe it's the glittery lights that gradually appear on nearly every neighborhood entrance, store, street and home; or the increase in traffic and shopping bag toting crowds.

Nostalgia

You remember putting ornaments on the tree while christmas songs blared and the sweet aroma of christmas cookies filled your cozy home. You remember going to sleep on Christmas eve as a child, excitement welling up in your stomach. It wasn't even all about the gifts; so much was done to make the season special for you.

Having lived through the holidays for much of your life, you know the sincere love goes into it. How thoughtful people try to be when they choose gifts for their loved ones. How much joy goes into cooking and baking specialties. And how much charity is given and how much happiness can be present when everyone is genuinely working towards being happy, and together. It was truly special.

Trying to Do the Right Thing

This nostalgia is part of what leads us to experience deep guilt over not participating in Christmas with our families after choosing Islam. It's common to feel helpless, confused, and downright sad. Many converts simply go ahead and participate in all the Christmas festivities, largely to avoid feelings of guilt over not being there for their families during what is most likely their most cherished time of year. Explaining why we can't be present is nerve wracking. We fear that our absence sends a message of judgement and disapproval our families may not understand. It may be interpreted that we did not value all those beautiful memories, all the gifts and love we were given throughout our lives during the holidays. If we don't give gifts at Christmas, the lack of giving may send a message of mean-spiritedness, and no amount of gifts throughout the year might overcome our tarnished reputation for scroogeness. Not being there for the holidays removes us from our families at a time so important for them. Our absence could reduce our standing with our families in general – reducing our potentially positive

influence. We are not there for our nieces, nephews, or grandchildren at the time they consider most magical. We feel less a part of their lives, and they must feel we are less a part of theirs. And we feel we are doing our families a disservice, and it hurts.

What's Really Behind the Guilt

Some of these thoughts are valid, and others are actually filled with hot air! If we are feeling guilty about not being there for our families during their holidays, it may really mean that we simply are not there for them enough in general. Holidays tend to encourage people to behave in ways out of the norm.

A Better Way to Live Guilt-Free

Think about what usually prevents you from keeping in touch and 'being there' for your family. Are you super busy? Do you feel tired and like you are not sure what to say? Try to get to the bottom of your reasons for not adequately staying in touch. Write them down, and determine which excuses are valid and which are merely excuses. Brainstorm solutions for the real problems, and follow my advice:

1- Phone Calls and Visits

Sure, you love your family and friends, but they don't know that unless you tell them! How many times do you think of calling, but don't? You've got to follow through. It can be a short phone call. Simply explain that you wanted to hear their voice, or share a funny thing that happened, or something you saw that reminded you of them, or "how are you doing?", then listen. Depend-

ing on how far away you live, plan how often you can visit, then go!

2- Send Messages

There are apps such as MarcoPolo, that allow you to send videos to your loved ones. Every now and then, record yourself sending them a loving message. It could be as simple as, "Hi Dad, I'm at work and was thinking of you, so I'm sending this video to say, I hope you are having a great day and I love you!" It takes less than a minute! How about a short text? Doing these things in between phone calls and visits will let your loved ones know you care and that you do think of them.

3- Remember Things

Was someone sick? Having a doctor's appointment? Waiting for some news? Getting a promotion? When your family members tell you things about their lives, listen and remember, then call later to check up on how the event went, how they are feeling, etc. Remembering and inquiring about happenings in their lives that matter to them communicates that you care.

4- Give Gifts

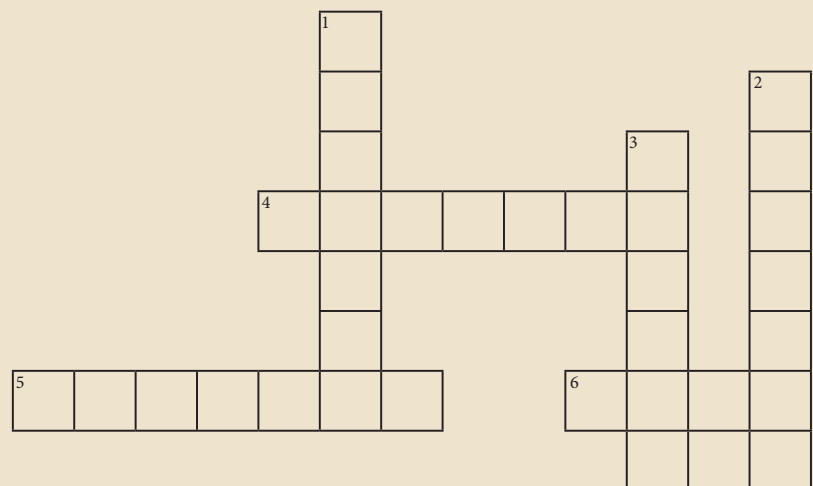
Set aside some money, even if it's only a little, exclusively to spend on gifts. Choose a time that you will have saved up enough, maybe every 3 months, or every 6 months or even once a year. Then divide up that saved money and use it to buy gifts for your family members and friends. Even the three dollar toys from

Continued To Page 7

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS ACROSS

1. Rawda
 3. Yunus
 5. Alwahid
- ### DOWN
1. Rukhsa
 2. Four
 3. Adalah



ACROSS

4. Arabic word for college.
5. In Qasr (shortening prayers while travelling), which daily prayer is not shortened.
6. Fiqh rule allowing two prayers to be combined together while travelling.

DOWN

1. A name of Allah (SWT) meaning 'The Giver of Life'.
2. Special prayer performed without bowing (Ruku') or prostration (sujud).
4. Surah in Juz '27 that divides people into three groups on the Day of Judgement.

North -Eastern Counties receive over Ksh 15 Billion in devolution funds

Northern Kenya counties have received a significant share of national revenue, according to the latest data on cash disbursements to counties as of November 28, 2025. In the North Eastern region, Mandera received approximately KSh 4.05 billion, Wajir KSh 3.47 billion, and Garissa about KSh 2.93 billion. In the wider northern region, Marsabit was allocated around KSh 2.67 billion, while Isiolo received approximately KSh 1.86 billion.

Collectively, the five counties—Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit, and Isi-

olo—have received more than KSh 15 billion in devolved funds. The allocations are intended to support critical services, including healthcare, water provision, infrastructure development, education, and drought mitigation. Despite these allocations, many Muslim-majority counties in Kenya's historically marginalised northern and coastal regions continue to lag behind in development. Analysts note that the disparity cannot be attributed solely to funding levels. Instead, it is linked to a combination of factors, including corruption

and mismanagement, weak absorption of development funds, limited accountability and transparency, political dynamics, historical marginalisation, and delays in fund disbursement.

While devolution has yielded gains in some areas—particularly in healthcare access and infrastructure—the overall impact remains uneven. Many residents report feeling underserved and increasingly disillusioned by the slow pace of development relative to the resources allocated.

Madrassas in correctional facilities hold inaugural Qur'an memorisation competition

On Sunday, madrassas within correctional facilities in Nairobi and its environs took part in the inaugural Qur'an memorisation and recitation competition, marking a milestone in faith-based education within the prison system.

The event, held at Masjid Yusuf and Madrasa in the Industrial Area GK Prisons, was the first of its kind and aimed at promoting Qur'an memorisation, recitation and understanding among Muslims—particularly the children of prison staff.

Organised in partnership with Source of Hope Organization and supported by donors, the competition brought together madrasa students from Masjid Yusuf Islamic Centre (Industrial Area), Madrasatul Hijria (Kamiti Maximum GK Prisons) and Madrasatul Tawbah (Nairobi West GK Prisons). Participants demonstrated exceptional skills in Qur'anic memorisation and recitation, alongside presentations in Hadith and Fiqh.

Speaking during the event, the chief guest, Sheikh Hamza Rage, commended prison maalim (teachers) Maalim Adam Kosaiye (Masjid Yusuf Islamic center), Maalim Adi Athman (Madrasatul Hijria Kamiti GK Prisons) and Maalim Yusuf Adan Abdikadir of Madrasatul Tawbah (Nairobi West GK Prisons) for their dedication to imparting Islamic knowledge to Muslim inmates, staff members and their children within correctional facilities. He urged them to sustain the same commitment, noting its importance in moral formation and socio-economic development.

Sheikh Rage further advised Muslim officers to uphold their Islamic identity, high moral standards and discipline, describing these values as essential for success in life. He cautioned against engaging in harmful and prohibited activities, saying such practices contradict Islamic teachings. At the same time, he urged parents not to neglect their parental responsibilities, but to actively guide and nurture their children by instilling strong religious values essential for proper upbringing and

personal growth..

"Many parents are busy, but those who take time to understand how their children are performing in school help them succeed. Children of uninvolved parents sometimes fall through the cracks," Sheikh Rage said. "We encourage parents not to relinquish their leadership role to external individuals or entities."

Addressing the gathering, Abbas Matker Chief Maalim in charge of Muslim affairs in Prisons department underscored the importance of Qur'an memorisation in shaping moral character and instilling virtues that contribute to national development. He announced that the Prisons Service Madrasa Qur'an Competition would be held annually to foster spiritual growth, promote Qur'anic understanding and strengthen community cohesion. Abbas Matker encouraged Prison Maalims across the country to set up Madrasa classes in their respective stations to promote Islamic knowledge.

Chief Maalim Matker also challenged Muslim officers in disciplined forces to continuously improve their skills and capacity in order to effectively support da'wah efforts and rehabilitation programmes at their respective stations.

Meanwhile, Source of Hope Organization founder Muhidin Ali called on parents to prioritise education, describing it as a key driver of development within the Muslim community. He placed particular emphasis on educating the girl child, noting that educating a woman amounts to uplifting a family and, ultimately, the nation.



INSET: A participant from Masjid Yusuf Islamic Centre (Industrial Area), showcasing his skills in the recitation and memorization of Noble Quran

TOP: A section of Madrasa pupils following proceedings during the inaugural Qur'an memorisation and recitation competition held at Masjid Yusuf and Madrasa in the Industrial Area GK Prisons on Sunday, marking a milestone in faith-based education within the Kenya Prisons system..



CIRCUMCISION FOR BOYS

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Surgeons and Anesthesia fee, theater and surgical consumable.

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Exciting News!

We have now opened a new branch at Nasra Gardens, located on Spine Road off Kangundo Road, next to Nasra Gardens Gate A. Our holiday discount applies at this location too!

Imams urged to intensify Islamic teachings on charity

Imams and Islamic scholars across the country have been urged to intensify teachings on zakah, the obligatory annual almsgiving that supports the poor, vulnerable members of society and Islamic programmes.

The call was made by the National Muslim Leaders Forum (NAMLEF) Western Regional Coordinator, Cassim Ochibah, popularly known as Abu Muhsin, who emphasised the need for religious leaders to strengthen teachings on charity—particularly the obligation of zakah and the virtues of voluntary sadaqah—to nurture a stronger culture of compassion and social welfare within Muslim communities.

Abu Muhsin noted that enhanced education on charitable obligations and opportunities would inspire practical action to alleviate poverty and support vulnerable groups, including orphans, widows and the needy.

In a speech punctuated with verses from the Holy Qur'an and sayings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), he reminded Muslims that zakah is one of the five pillars of Islam upon which the faith is built.

He observed that while Imams and scholars have extensively taught other pillars—such as belief in the oneness of Allah, observance of the five daily prayers, fasting

during the holy month of Ramadhan and the pilgrimage to Makkah for those who can afford it—teachings on zakah, including its obligation and proper distribution, have largely been neglected.

"This has resulted in a situation where many believers remain unaware of their duty to give zakah, even when they have attained the means to do so," he said.

He added that giving zakah to the poor attracts and multiplies Allah's blessings upon one's wealth while helping to dispel poverty. "Those who have been blessed with wealth should understand that the best way to protect it is by giving zakah promptly," he said.

Direct Aid Kenya restores sight to hundreds in Kakamega Eye camp

Direct Aid Kenya has restored sight and improved the quality of life for hundreds of residents following a five-day free eye medical camp held in Kakamega County.

The camp, which ran from Wednesday, 17th to Sunday, 21st, attracted more than 700 patients from across Kakamega and neighboring counties, underscoring the growing demand for specialized eye care services in the region. Medical examinations conducted during the outreach revealed that over 300 patients were suffering from serious eye conditions, including cataracts and glaucoma, with many requiring urgent surgical intervention. By the end of the exercise, more than 300 patients had successfully undergone eye surgeries, depending on their medical needs.

Speaking to The Friday Bulletin, the lead doctor overseeing the camp praised the medical team for their professionalism and dedication, describing the exercise

as smooth and highly impactful. He noted that the large turnout highlighted a significant gap in access to affordable and specialized eye care in western Kenya.

Dr. Justus Maula called on Direct Aid to scale up similar interventions in Kakamega and surrounding counties, urging greater focus on vulnerable populations who are unable to afford specialized eye treatment. Representing Direct Aid Kenya, Sheikh Hajj Ali expressed satisfaction with the public response and the outcomes of the camp. "We had initially planned to conduct about 300 surgeries, but Alhamdulillah, the response has been very encouraging. Over 300 patients underwent surgery based on their medical conditions," he said.

Kakamega-based consultant ophthalmologist Dr. Phoebe Waswa assured the public that strict safety and medical protocols were adhered to throughout the exercise. She said all patients underwent thorough screening, while hygiene standards and

post-operative care were prioritized to ensure positive outcomes. The camp also witnessed emotional scenes as beneficiaries shared testimonies of lives transformed by the initiative. One middle-aged woman suffering from diabetes-related eye complications said her worsening vision had severely affected her daily activities. "Before the surgery, I could barely see," she said. "Now I can see clearly again. This has completely changed my life." She expressed gratitude to Direct Aid Kenya and the medical team, describing the intervention as life-changing. Dr. Waswa also used the opportunity to sensitize the public on common risk factors associated with eye diseases, citing diabetes, high blood pressure, aging, prolonged exposure to direct sunlight, and poor nutrition or vitamin deficiencies as major contributors to visual impairment.

She urged residents to seek regular eye check-ups and early medical attention to prevent avoidable blindness.

Ways to overcome guilt

Continued From Page 5

Target's bargain aisle can bring smiles to the faces of your nieces and nephews and give them something to remember your love by. Even a Hallmark card can let your Mom or Aunt know you are thinking of them. Gifts don't have to cost a lot! Of all the gifts I received from my grandmother as a child, the most memorable were the boxes of Cracker Jacks she would bring me when she came to visit. Cracker Jacks cost \$1 or so – but they have stood the test of time, reminding me that my grandmother loved me and thought of me – more than any Christmas present she ever gave me! I didn't even like Cracker Jacks!

5- Use Technology to Organize and Keep Yourself Accountable

Use Google Calendar or a calendar of your choice. Spend some time today scheduling in regular phone calls and visits. Schedule in everything, from saving money to buy the gifts and making your short video messages. Schedule how often you want to visit and call to say, 'hi!'. When they tell you about things like an upcoming doctor visit, get in the habit of entering it into your calendar immediately!

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Legendary KBC Broadcaster Amina Fakiï dies, leaves a lasting Media legacy

Legendary radio presenter Amina Fakiï, whose broadcasting career spanned decades at the Voice of Kenya—now KBC Radio Taifa—has passed away.

Fakiï, fondly remembered for her soothing voice on KBC's mid-morning show in the 1990s, died on Sunday morning. She was later laid to rest in Ngong, Nairobi, following Islamic rites after the Asr prayers. News of her passing sparked an outpouring of tributes from journalists, leaders and Kenyans who grew up listening to her, many describing her as a trusted voice and a reassuring constant in changing times.

Former colleague Khadija Ali, who worked closely with her, remembered Amina as a consummate professional and a standard-setter in the newsroom.

"Amina was excellence without noise. She prepared thoroughly, spoke deliber-

ately, and never took the audience for granted. Working alongside her made you want to be better," she said.

Amina Fakiï was part of a golden era of public broadcasting, when the microphone was treated as a public trust. At KBC, she distinguished herself through discipline, mastery of language and unwavering professionalism. She did not chase attention; attention found her. Each presentation carried her unmistakable signature—clarity, balance and respect for the audience.

Beyond her on-air presence, Amina was a mentor to many young journalists. Colleagues recall how she corrected gently but firmly, insisting on accuracy, ethics and respect for language. To her, broadcasting was a public service, not a performance.

The death of the legendary Kenya Broadcasting Corporation presenter has left a deep void in the country's media fraternity.



To generations of listeners, Amina Fakiï was credibility personified—firm yet humane, authoritative yet accessible.

Though her microphone has gone quiet, her legacy endures in the standards she upheld, the journalists she mentored and the trust she built with a nation.

Adult Education Programme launched to empower Nairobi's Muslim communities

The Directorate of Adult Learning and Education (DALE), under the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizens Affairs, has officially launched a landmark adult education programme in Nairobi, in collaboration with the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya (CIPK). The initiative aims to expand access to learning for Muslim communities that have historically been underserved.

The launch, held last Thursday at the Jamia Multipurpose Hall—generously provided by Jamia Mosque in support of education and community development—also marked the graduation of thirty newly trained adult education tutors. This milestone follows a comprehensive five-day induction workshop organized by DALE

in partnership with CIPK, equipping tutors with the skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality adult education programmes across the capital. The initiative builds on longstanding national efforts to advance lifelong learning, with a renewed emphasis on reaching marginalized communities. Mosques, madrassas, and community halls will serve as accessible learning spaces, helping to overcome cultural and social barriers that have traditionally limited adult participation in education. Nancy Macharia, DALE's National Deputy Director, encouraged older learners and those who had previously discontinued formal education to take full advantage of the programme. She also urged the graduates to approach their new roles with dedication,

emphasizing that their training had prepared them to meet the challenges ahead. Sheikh Mohammed Ibrahim, CEO of the Muslim Education Council (MEC), called upon Muslim communities to actively support the programme. "We urge all Muslims to embrace this initiative and provide every possible form of support. MEC remains committed to working with partners to ensure adult education reaches those who need it most," he said. The trained tutors will be deployed to mosques and community centres to deliver programmes in adult literacy, life skills, and continuing education, providing vital second-chance learning opportunities for adults who missed out on formal schooling.

How can Muslim women live the Sunnah today?

Continued From Page 4

and forced to cover themselves with modest clothing and focus on their homes and families, instead of careers. Many Muslim women obey Allah's Messenger and willingly adopt the highly fulfilling Islamic way of life. However, misconceptions about women in Islam, purported by a few legitimate but gender-based differences in Islamic laws and commands, abound in global media, nurturing unjustified stereotyping and propaganda.

Successful Examples

Today, several Muslim women have carved a niche for themselves, especially in the field of dawah through communications media. They are wives and mothers, but also writers, journalists, doctors, lawyers and teachers. They are active in their community and in service of Islam. Their hijab and other aspects of adherence to Islamic principles do not thwart them from being educated, proactive members of society.

Practical Advice

To implement the Sunnah in one's daily life in this day and age, there is no one, clear-cut methodology. Rather, a broad strategy that, when applied in the long-term, leads to surefire results:

1- Gain Knowledge of Islam

By learning Quran recitation (tajweed), mastering Arabic, studying Quran exegesis (tafsir) and listening to Islamic lectures by the qualified teachers of the ummah, a Muslim can keep himself steadfast upon his practice of Islam, including the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him).

2- Study Sirah (life story of Prophet Muhammad) and Hadith (verified prophetic traditions)

This can be easily done through leisure reading and listening to lectures. The more you know about the Prophet, the more easily you love and imitate him.

3- Carry out the Religious Obligations

No matter how tough it might be, always follow the obligations of Islam primarily – such as prayers and fasting. They keep the Muslim grounded in faith, and prove to be stepping-stones for further spirituality.

4- Pious Company

Strive to hang out with practicing Muslims and their families. This will automatically keep you tied to faith-based social events and knowledge circles among the righteous Muslims of the ummah.

The challenge today is not whether Muslims can practice Islam and Prophet Muhammad's Sunnah effectively or not. The challenge is to overcome the various tangible, social and prejudice-based obstacles that are thrown their way repeatedly by society. This dares Muslims to prove that they can go on in their chosen path without being deterred.