

THE FRIDAY BULLETIN

The Weekly Muslim Update



A Publication of the Jamia Mosque Nairobi

Court grants bail to Malindi-based Imam in alleged Umrah scam

A Nairobi court has granted bail to Malindi-based Imam Ustadh Omar Athman Omar, charged with obtaining money by false pretences in an alleged Umrah travel scam, after finding no sufficient grounds to keep him in custody.

On Monday, Omar Athman Omar appeared before Milimani Chief Magistrate Lucas Onyina, where he was charged and denied the offence. In its ruling on Tuesday, the court held that “the prosecution had not demonstrated compelling reasons to justify continued detention,” despite earlier objections citing him as a flight risk and possible interference with investigations.

The court released the accused on a cash bail of KSh 400,000, with an alternative bond of a similar amount, pending the hearing of the case. Omar is accused of fraudulently obtaining KSh 774,000 from Mohamed Salim Bahlewa in December 2025, after allegedly promising to facilitate Umrah visas for the complainant and his family. The money was reportedly paid through bank transfers and M-Pesa.

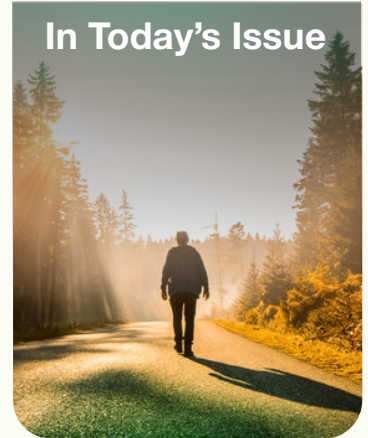
“The visas were never secured,” investigators said, with the complainant adding that the accused “became unreachable after the scheduled travel date of December 29, 2025 passed.” Prosecutors had opposed bail, arguing that the

accused had previously left the country for Saudi Arabia, had no fixed residence within the court’s jurisdiction, and “could use his position as a religious leader to influence witnesses.”

Among those who have come forward are Muslim university students who claim they paid a total of KSh 862,201 to Athman after contributing funds in instalments for visa processing. According to the students, “37 of them subscribed to the arrangement, paying about 100 US dollars each, before the suspect allegedly went missing days to their planned departure.”

The Kenya Hajj Mission under Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) has warned the public against dealing with unauthorised individuals offering pilgrimage services at seemingly attractive rates. SUPKEM officials say “some operators collect money from unsuspecting worshippers before disappearing, leaving victims with significant losses.”

However, the court ruled that these concerns “did not meet the legal threshold required to deny bail.” The matter is scheduled for mention on February 24, 2026, as investigations continue.



In Today's Issue

1 Spiritually Gearing up for Ramadhan

There are several different areas that you can focus on now, to ensure that you are spiritually ready to shine during Ramadhan.

2 Declaration to Strengthen Child Protection in Kenya, signed.

Religious leaders from all major faiths in Kenya have signed the National Religious Leaders' Declaration on Child Safeguarding, marking a bold, united commitment to protect children from violence, abuse and harmful practices.

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

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

Don't miss your copy!

CONTACTS

P.O Box 100786 00101 Nairobi
Tel: 2243504/5

email: fridaybulletin@jamiamosque.co.ke

Promoting interfaith harmony and coexistence



Jamia Mosque Committee Majlis Member and Da'wah Convener Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome (RIGHT) explains to members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints how Muslims pray inside Jamia Mosque during their courtesy call to Jamia Mosque Nairobi. The visit fostered interfaith understanding, mutual respect, and meaningful dialogue. Looking on is Jamia Secretary General Abdulbari Hamid (LEFT).

Scan Here to Give Us Your Feedback!



Jamia Boys' Quran Competition set for next week

The 15th edition of the annual Jamia Boys' Quran Competition final will be held next week from February 18 to February 20, 2026, culminating in a grand closing ceremony to celebrate the winners of the prestigious event.

The three-day competition is organized by the Jamia Mosque Committee Nairobi in collaboration with the Cultural and Religious Attaché of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Kenya. It is expected to draw participants from madrasahs and Islamic institutions across Nairobi County.

Contestants from various zones in Nairobi County, including Komarock, South C, Biafra, Pumwani and Juja Road, will compete and showcase their memorization skills in the noble Quran. The competition is divided into four categories: five Ajzaa, ten Ajzaa, fifteen Ajzaa and full Quran memorization.

Winners in each category will receive cash prizes, adding to the competitive spirit of the event, which is aimed at nurturing young minds in preserving the Qur'an and upholding its message.

Over the past 14 years, the competition

has grown into one of the most coveted annual events at Jamia Mosque Nairobi, inspiring similar Quranic programs in other regions.

Organizers say the initiative reflects Jamia Mosque Nairobi's continued commitment to nurturing Islamic knowledge and fostering spiritual growth, particularly during the holy month of Ramadhan.

Beyond the awards, the competition provides a platform for young learners to excel while reinforcing the importance of Quranic recitation and Islamic scholarship within the community.

Religious leaders sign declaration to strengthen child protection in Kenya

A major step forward in strengthening national child protection efforts was made on Wednesday last week after religious leaders from across all major faiths in Kenya signed the National Religious Leaders' Declaration on Child Safeguarding, marking a bold, united commitment to protect children from violence, abuse and harmful practices.

The declaration was endorsed during the first National Religious Leaders' Summit on Child Safeguarding, which drew participants from across the country, including faith leaders from counties, government officials, civil society organizations and development partners, reaffirming the shared responsibility of safeguarding children in Kenya.

The summit, convened by the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Children Services in collaboration with the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK) and UNICEF, is part of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Kenya.

The signing ceremony was complemented by the launch of "Faith for Life: Protecting and Safeguarding Our Children," a new faith-based safeguarding handbook designed to equip religious institutions with practical tools to strengthen child-friendly policies, ensure safe practices and promote positive parenting.

With the declaration signed and the handbook now in circulation, Kenya enters a new chapter of multi-sectoral collaboration, bringing together the Government, faith institutions and communities to ensure that every child grows up free from violence.

Speaking at the summit, the Ag. Chief Kadhi made a compelling statement: "FGM has no root in Islam," thereby emphasizing the role of faith leaders in denouncing FGM and other harmful practices and mobilizing communities towards the elimination of these vices.

On her part, Cabinet Secretary for Gender, Culture and Children Services, Hanna Wendot Cheptumo, reaffirmed that child protection goes beyond morality, stating:

"Child protection is a constitutional, legal, and national responsibility that demands collective efforts from the government, faith institutions, families, and communities.

"The Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Gender, Culture and Child Services is proud to support this initiative and reaffirms its commitment to working closely with faith actors, civil society, and all stakeholders to end violence against children, eliminate harmful practices and build communities where every child is valued, heard, and protected."

UNICEF's Deputy Representative, Mahboob Bajwa, welcomed the united commitment and the new handbook as catalysts for meaningful change. "UNICEF is proud to stand with the Government, the IRCK and partners to ensure that every child in Kenya has the right to grow up safe, loved and protected.

"When religious leaders speak clearly and consistently against violence, and

Continued To Back Page

SOHA Launches 2026 Ramadhan Iftar Drive to Support Vulnerable Families

The Star of Hope Association (SOHA) has launched its 2026 Ramadhan iftar drive and humanitarian efforts aimed at supporting poor and vulnerable families across arid and underserved communities.

The initiative, which is being implemented through partnerships with donors and well-wishers, seeks to distribute food baskets to ensure fasting households have sufficient meals for suhoor and iftar during the holy month.

Speaking to the Friday Bulletin, SOHA Organizing Secretary Qari Abdulrazzaq appealed to Muslims, donors and well-wishers to take part in the charitable programme and share in the reward of feeding fasting families.

According to Qari Abdulrazzaq, the initiatives are designed to ease hunger, promote dignity, and strengthen community solidarity during the blessed month of

Ramadhan. "We humbly appeal for your support. Any amount donated will be highly appreciated and your contribution, given for the sake of Allah in this Holy Month of Ramadan will go a long way in bringing relief to families in need," he said.

He further noted that beyond food relief distribution, SOHA organizes community iftar programmes, supports orphans and needy students, and works closely with local leaders to identify the most vulnerable families in target areas.

In line with the spirit of charity that defines Ramadhan, Qari Abdulrazzaq urged Muslims to remember the less privileged and poverty-stricken members of society by extending a helping hand to earn the pleasure of Allah. "SOHA remains on the frontline of compassion delivering hope, nourishment, and mercy to families who would otherwise struggle to observe Ramadan with peace

and dignity," Qari Abdulrazzaq said.

During the holy month of Ramadan, Star of Hope Association intensifies its humanitarian efforts to support poor and vulnerable families across arid and underserved communities. SOHA conducts large scale distribution of Ramadan food baskets to ensure fasting households have sufficient meals for suhoor and iftar.

Members of the public who wish to support the 2026 Ramadhan iftar drive can contribute through MPESA Paybill number 766536, Account: Iftar, or through Equity Bank, Makutano, Meru Branch, Account number 1040299217449.

For inquiries, members of the public may contact Chairman Dr Haroon Saeed on 0722416921 or CEO Qari Abdulrazzaq on 0722909949.

Spiritually gearing up for Ramadhan

By Sumayyah Meehan

The Month of Ramadhan will be arriving in just a few short days. Muslims from around the globe have been awaiting its auspicious arrival for the past year. Once it arrives, it will be gone before you know it.

Make the most of this Ramadhan and spiritually gear up for an amazing month of fasting and worship of Allah. There are several different areas that you can focus on now, to ensure that you are spiritually ready to shine during this Month.

Get Your Physical Home in Order

Before you can focus on spiritual matters, you need to get your physical home in working order. Clutter, dust and disorder all take a toll on cognitive processes.

A home that is in disarray leads to a thought process that is similarly cluttered. A messy living space can create anxiety, nervousness and worry.

All of these emotions are distracting to the Muslim when he is seeking to pray and worship. It also makes fasting and preparing the Iftar meal more difficult.

Use the next few weeks to your advantage. Declutter your home by throwing away useless items and donating unwanted ones to charity.

Replace broken furniture and appliances with ones that you can afford to ensure everything is in working order. Dust, mop and polish every surface until it sparkles. Remember that cleanliness of the home and body is a great virtue in Islam.

Personally, every Ramadhan I reserve one corner of my home that is exclusively for prayer. That means that even my children are not allowed to play in that area or disturb me when I am engaged in worship.

Understand the Reasons Behind Fasting

Before you can begin the month of fasting, you need to know why Muslims fast in the first place. The reason can be found in the Quran:

O you who believe! Observing the fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become Al-Muttaqoon (the pious) (Surah Al-Baqarah 2:183)

Fasting is an act of worship and obedience to Allah. It humbles the human heart and makes conscience of Allah's presence. Fasting also helps us to control our basic human desires such as thirst and hunger.

The fasting person feel pangs of hunger during the fasting day and can empathize with the less fortunate who feel similar pangs due to poverty as a part of daily life. Breaking of the fast each day is also a great joy and mercy from Allah.

Follow the Sunnah of the Prophet when fasting in Ramadhan. Turn to Islamic books or articles to learn about ways in which the fast is invalidated so that you can abstain from inadvertently breaking

your fast.

In these coming days, attempt a couple of trial fasts so that you can get the hang of fasting long before Ramadhan begins. I always try to engage in a few fasting days well before Ramadhan to prepare my body for the rigors of the fasting month.

Perfect Your Prayers

If you have not perfected your prayers yet, now is the time to do it. Allah Almighty says in the Quran:

"And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me." (Surah Adh-Dhariyat 51: 56)

The Month of Ramadhan includes the five daily obligatory prayers as well as the nightly Taraweeh prayers, which are recommended for all Muslims. If your prayers are lacking now, you might struggle to keep up with prayers during Ramadhan.

It is a great sin to miss a single prayer. Perfect your prayers now. These days you can learn how to pray properly from a DVD or even on the website YouTube. If you have any doubts, contact your local Imam and ask for assistance in learning how to perform the Islamic prayer properly.

Spend Time Learning the Quran

For most reverts to Islam, their first encounter with the Quran is a translation of it in their own language. A translation is not the same as the real book, which was revealed and recorded in Arabic. To truly unlock the beauty and blessings of the Quran, one must learn the Arabic language. Start by learning Arabic alphabet.

There are countless books, workbooks and audios available for sale online that teach the Arabic language. Granted, you cannot learn an entire language before Ramadhan commences. But you can take small steps in the learning process. You should also continue to read a translation of the Quran, which will help to increase your Islamic knowledge and understanding of the religion.

Give Up Vices Now!

Vices such as backbiting, slander, lying or cheating are just a few of the unlawful activities that humans engage in. There is no room for these types of vices in the Islamic faith.

Purging them from your heart will work wonders for your faith and help you live a life in accordance with Islam. The fasting day can even be rendered invalid as a result of certain vices. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

Whoever does not give up false speech and acting upon it, and ignorance, Allah has no need of him giving up his food and drink. (Al Bukhari)

Don't wait until Ramadhan arrives to give up your vices, do so now to increase the chance



es that all of your fasting and worship in Ramadhan will be accepted.

Other vices like drinking alcohol, consuming drugs or engaging in other unlawful activities should also be completely abstained prior to Ramadhan. If you wait until the fast has begun, you risk the quality of your fast and may have trouble fulfilling each fasting day.

Open Your Hand

Prophet Muhammad was generous year round, but he was most open handed during the month of Ramadhan. Remember that in Ramadhan each good deed that we perform is multiplied by seventy times or more.

It is a good idea to be generous with your wealth as much as possible. This is aside from the Zakat, which is poor alms in the amount of 2.5% of the yearly wealth. For those who cannot spend freely, there are other ways to be generous. You can be generous with your time by offering help to a fellow Muslim in need or by helping to make repairs to the local Mosque.

Prophet Muhammad said that even smiling is considered a charity. So meet your Muslim brethren in faith with a hearty "As-salamu Alaykum" and a smile from ear to ear.

The Month of Ramadhan is like a gentle breeze that hastens to cool a sweltering summer night. However, just as quickly as it arrives, it bids farewell much too soon. Get ready to welcome Ramadhan today, so that you can take full advantage of the blessed days and nights once it arrives.

From the Holy Qur'an Ayah of the week

Theme: Trust in Allah

"And if Allah should touch you with adversity, there is no remover of it except Him; and if He intends for you good, then there is no repeller of His bounty. He causes it to reach whom He wills of His servants. And He is the Forgiving, the Merciful..."

(Surah Al-An'am (6:17))



8 Tips to make your first Ramadhan a Ramadhan to remember

Maria Zain

The countdown has already begun for Ramadhan. Are you overwhelmed? Are you nervous about the countdown to Ramadhan? How can I get ready? Fasting means withholding food and drink from sunrise to sunset. That means I won't have meals during the day, and when I'm thirsty, I won't drink either – up until it's time to break my fast. I'll break my fast with dates, because that's the sunnah – dates and plain water. Then I'll have a meal. Hmm, should I cook? Should I buy out? Should I go to the mosque? What about Taraweeh (night prayers)? Maybe I should go to the mosque, which means, I should get a copy of the Quran that's just the right size. Maybe one that can fit into my bag. Gee, will I be tired by the end of the day? Especially when I'm working the whole day. When will I cook? What should I cook? How about suhoor (late night meal), what type of meal should I have then? If I'm occupied the whole day, when should I read the Quran? Am I supposed to take advantage of the month and brush up on my Prayers as well? What about my recitations? All this, for about thirty days? Could I really do this? I think I'm overwhelmed.

The Countdown... Get Prepared

Have you felt the countdown for Ramadhan? Is this your first time fasting during the Holy Month? Ramadhan, despite its spiritual goodness, can be daunting for first-timers. Doing something they have never done before and doing it for a month, maybe alone, is a feat to be reckoned with. But with this Pillar of Islam, comes ease – it just takes a little planning and preparation, and anyone, with the best of intentions can make their First Ramadhan, a Ramadhan to remember.

Make Du'a' and Intention for a Meaningful Ramadhan

Du'a' and intention are the first steps for anything when it comes to being a Muslim. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) reminded that du'a and intentions are only worthy when they are enveloped by God. Thus it is important for everyone who makes intention for a meaningful Ramadhan to have the right intention to please God first.

Cultivating the Good, Breaking the Bad

After intention, there has to be action; a lot of action. And one of the benefits of Ramadhan is that it sets the tone for change. Perhaps this is best to be kept simple, as little changes do add up.

Setting too many goals may be overwhelming for some, so it's important to stay realistic with the goals you want to achieve. The best deeds are those that are consistent. If this is your first Ramadhan, think about what you would like to get out of it. Take a look at yourself and think about the new habits you want to cultivate and those that you want to

break, as a new Muslim. Write them down and again, make intention to work through Ramadhan in plight of these goals and objectives. If you can pull this off with a positive mindset, you will surely reap the spiritual upgrade that Ramadhan has to offer.

Set a Schedule Pre-Ramadhan

A practice run-up to Ramadhan is a good idea. If there is still time, try fasting on Monday and Thursday as per the sunnah as a simple warm up. A whole month of a new regiment could cause a slight shock to one's body, so a practice schedule may help. Otherwise, try waking up a little earlier for breakfast and being a little more disciplined about food intake. Try cutting down on snacks, and taking a rest in the mid-morning. This will help with Taraweeh Prayers that come later at night. This is also a good time to start cultivating good sleeping habits and to curb staying up late unnecessarily.

Pick Up a Copy of the Quran

Having a copy of the Quran as accompaniment is a great way to spend Ramadhan. A small copy of the Quran would be just nice to carry to classes or even to work, even if it's the translation of the meaning of the Quran. There's nothing more meaningful than reading a few verses every day as there are blessings in every letter of the glorious Quran.

Get in Touch with the Muslim Community

Ramadhan is a great time to cultivate ties between the Ummah, but beforehand, seek out good friends and relatives (if any) who will act as companions throughout the month. Fasting together, enjoying iftar together, attending Islamic talks together, and praying together are amongst the blessings of Ramadhan. Having good company keeps our focus on the virtues of Ramadhan. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) reminded that we shall follow the religion of our friends, so do choose good companions to help you through the month.

Commit to Helping a Charity

As we all know, Ramadhan is a good time for self-reflection, and especially reflecting on what we are grateful for. It's also a great reminder to help those in need.

Get in touch with a charity beforehand and see how you can help out during the month. It could be something simple as sponsoring some

iftar meals, or visiting a few times a week to help tidy up.

This would actually help in keeping determined on the fast as it helps remind us of the hardship of others and the importance of extending a hand of aid.

Start Planning Meals

You have stocked up on dates, honey and raisins... and all the other good foods in the Quran, but now it's time to start planning your meals. It may sound simple to start planning meals, so do it for the entire Ramadhan. Meal preparation is the last thing you want to think about and so is running around the kitchen preparing food. Get a meal plan started now with your favorite, easy-to-make dishes on the menu, and even better, those that can double up as meals for suhoor.

If you aren't able to plan for the month, consider planning out a week's worth of meals and repeating them through the week. Also, be smart with ingredients, as this is the perfect time to eat healthily, especially when it is important to stay actively and alert throughout the daylight hours.

Smile

It sounds like you have a plan. Smile and brace Ramadhan positively. Read up on Ramadhan and learn of the virtues, how it helps us with ourselves, how it helps us help others, how it helps us strengthen our relation with God. Again make du'a' over and over again for an enlightening Ramadhan and to walk away with a full fledged spiritual upgrade.

Light of Knowledge Quiz

In the Holy Quran, which Surah specifically mentions the word 'Ramadhan'?

A Surah Al-Baqarah

B Surah Al-A'raf

C Surah Al-Hashr

Answer to be revealed in the next issue

Last week's answer was choice A :
“ 1 ”

Simple steps to get ready for Ramadhan

By Idris Tawfiq

Getting ready for Ramadhan is what we're talking about. And these few words are intended primarily and mostly aimed for new Muslims, but they could be very useful words for Muslims who perhaps slid back a bit and find the prospect of fasting in Ramadhan a bit daunting, maybe they have not fasted for a while.

Taqwa: The Purpose of Ramadhan

So it's for those two: new Muslims to help them who just embraced Islam may be they have never fasted Ramadhan before.

So it's for you... It's for those who are new to Islam, and for those maybe their Islam has slid and want to get it back. And it's also for all Muslims, and for people of all faiths and of none to learn a little bit about Ramadhan. In the Quran, Allah Almighty says to us: Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you that you may learn taqwa. (Surah Al Baqarah 2:183) Taqwa is an Arabic word roughly translated; it means: "fear of the Lord" or "piety" So what does that mean? Well, I understand it best, it helps me to understand the word taqwa as humility before God, being humble before God, Allah. So an image of that would be for example when a Muslim prays (we pray 5 times a day) when our foreheads touch the ground in prayer, for me that's the most beautiful image of Islam because then our foreheads are on the ground and we say to Allah Almighty: "O Allah, I am nothing without You... I can do nothing without You... All my efforts would come to naught.. Anything I do would just be me, me..". So that's what taqwa is; piety, fear of the Lord. So Allah Almighty tells us {fasting is prescribed to you} so it's something He wants us to do, He tells us, He commands us to do, as it was prescribed to people before. Prophet David (peace be upon him) for example used to fast....so that you may achieve taqwa.

My First Ramadhan

Let me tell you about my first Ramadhan. I wasn't Muslim at all. I was teaching in a school in London, and the pupils, many of them were Muslim, approached me and said: "Sir, we've got nowhere to pray in Ramadhan and your room is the only room with a carpet" Subhanallah, what a coincidence, some might say... So I said: "I'd be honored if you come." And I said to them as well: "to encourage you in your prayer, I will fast with you during Ramadhan." So that first Ramadhan; I wasn't Muslim at all. I fasted, I suppose really I didn't fast for Allah's sake, I fasted for the sake of the children to encourage them. So that was my first experience.

Preparing for Ramadhan

Getting ready for Ramadhan. It's very important, my dear brothers and sisters, to remember that Ramadhan is not a punishment. People who are not Muslim

might look at Muslims and say: "Oh gosh! They eat nothing from morning till night... how awful... what a terrible burden that must be..." And yet you've only to meet any Muslim children, they are looking forward with great excitement to Ramadhan. Muslim homes during Ramadhan are often decorated with balloons and bunting or special Ramadhan material. In the evening, when Muslims celebrate the breaking of the fast with Iftar, the breakfast (Iftar) meal is a very joyous occasion. In fact to me, you know as one who accepted Islam 12-13 years ago or so, it seems to me, and I'll be perfectly honest, that Ramadhan is like Christmas and New Year and birthdays, and Thanksgiving... all rolled into one. And it doesn't only last for one day, it lasts for a month. So Ramadhan is not a punishment. It's very important to remember that when you're preparing, it's a very joyous time. But look, if you've not fasted before and your first Ramadhan is coming up, I suggest that what you do is like an athlete preparing for the Olympic games; he goes into training, gets his body ready so he can give the very best when the Olympics game come, or the World Cup. Well I suggest to you, that as Muslims, we need to get into training and prepare ourselves. And if you've never fasted before for a whole month, maybe prepare by trying. I don't mean to fast the whole of July in order to prepare; no I don't mean that. What I mean is for example what you can do is try first of all, if it helps, (some people take to fasting like a duck takes to water it's not problem at all) I must be honest and put my hand to my heart fasting my first Ramadhan wasn't a problem at all. But it might be difficult for you.

Gradual Fasting Load

So I suggest what you might do if it's a

daunting prospect, fast for maybe half a day one weekend, start this weekend.

Set yourself a time, you know, from 8:00 in the morning till 1:00pm – something like that – so you're not overly busy at the weekend and just go without food. Ramadhan, what it really means is we're going without breakfast, few cups of coffee during the day, lunch if we take it and that's it. It's not the most feat we're attempting. So get ourselves into the mood. Maybe fast a morning at the weekend. Once you've done that, why not try to fast for a morning at work, half a day at work; maybe go from 7 in the morning till 1 o'clock when you're working. You know, then you'll feel your body will start to rebel and tell you, "I want some water, I want a cup of tea, I want whatever it might be..." Then once you've managed that, you might do that once or twice, three or four times, then try longer than that, try maybe ¾ of the day at the weekend, then at work, see how it goes. It's not a punishment, you're not punishing yourself. In fact, there are many doctors who tell us that the effects of fasting (we don't fast for this reason; we fast for Allah alone) are very good for you. You know in this modern age, when we talk about toxins and healthy diet, many doctors will tell you that fasting from the very first thing in the morning when it's dark, from when the sun comes up till when the sun goes down it's actually good for the body; because it clears your body from all the rubbish we take in. It's not a diet as well, don't think you're not fasting to lose weight, you're not fasting to please anyone, you're not fasting to please the Muslim community if you're new to Islam, it doesn't matter what they think; you're fasting for Allah's sake.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

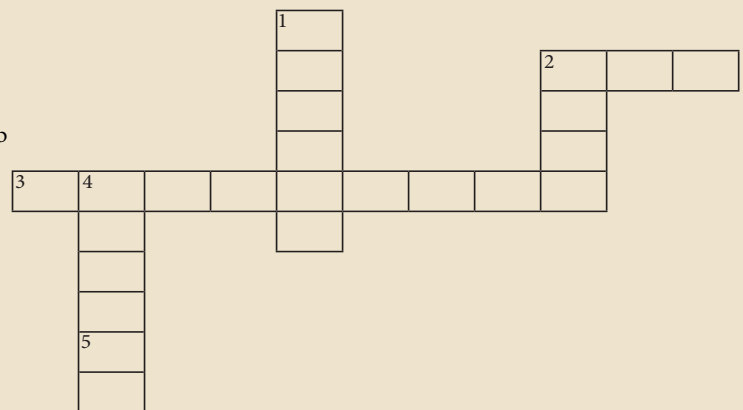
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

ACROSS

- 3. Nisa
- 4. Shurut Al Wujub
- 5. AlMumin

DOWN

- 1. Baqarah
- 2. Taharrah
- 3. Nujum



ACROSS

- 2. The first person to be both a prophet and a messenger.
- 3. The Name of Allah meaning "The Source of Peace".
- 5. The Surah whose name means "Mankind".

DOWN

- 1. Pre-Islamic name of Mecca.
- 2. Arabic term for a star.
- 4. Wudhu (ritual washing) falls under which category of condition (shurut) in Islamic law?

Thousands join Iftar fun walk to raise funds for vulnerable families

In a show of compassion and solidarity, thousands of Muslims from across Kenya took part in a 10-kilometre charity walk on Sunday, February 8, to raise funds for vulnerable families ahead of Ramadhan. The seventh edition of the event brought together families, youth groups, and community leaders, who set off from Adams Masjid along Ngong Road and walked to Muslim Academy in a show of solidarity with households struggling to afford basic food needs. Since its launch in 2021, the Iftar Fun Walk has steadily become a key fixture on Nairobi's community calendar, drawing growing numbers each year in support of food relief for needy families during Ramadhan. The annual event, organised by Zakat Kenya, is designed to mobilise resources to support families who face food in-

security during the fasting period. Participants contributed through registrations and donations, with the funds earmarked for a food distribution programme targeting vulnerable households across Nairobi and its outskirts. Organisers said the campaign is seeking to raise Sh25 million to support 5,000 families during Ramadhan. By the end of the walk, Sh8 million had already been collected, with organisers expressing confidence that continued public support will help bridge the funding gap in the coming weeks. Speaking during the flag-off ceremony, Family Resource Centre (FRC) chairperson Sheikh Abdullatif Abdulkarim said the initiative was rooted in the belief that community action can ease the burden on families facing hardship. "This is about more than completing a route. It is about standing with families who are struggling to

put food on the table, especially at a time when prolonged drought and rising living costs have stretched many households to the limit," he said. Beyond fundraising, the event doubled as a community mobilization exercise, with volunteers guiding participants along the route and local leaders using the platform to urge sustained support for vulnerable households beyond the Ramadhan period. Organisers appealed to the public and corporate partners to continue backing the initiative in the days ahead, warning that without sustained support, thousands of vulnerable households risk facing the fasting month without adequate food supplies. To support the initiative, donations can be made through M-Pesa PayBill number 600765 under the account name IFTAR.

SUPKEM urges government to declare drought national emergency

The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) has called on the national government to formally declare the ongoing drought in Kenya a national emergency, warning of worsening food and water insecurity across the country. In a press statement on Thursday last week by SUPKEM National Chairman Hassan Ole Naado, the council said the drought is no longer confined to agriculture but has evolved into a dual emergency of food and water insecurity, particularly in Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties. Ole Naado appealed to the President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Dr. William Ruto, to declare the drought a national emergency, warning that conditions are expected to deteriorate further into late 2025 and early 2026, placing millions at risk.

He urged the national government to urgently mobilize all available water resources, including water tankers from the National Youth Service, the Kenya Defence Forces, and the Ministry of Water Resources, to provide immediate relief to affected communities. As the country approaches the holy month of Ramadhan, SUPKEM appealed to national and county governments, humanitarian agencies, faith-based institutions, and individuals to act with urgency and compassion. "This is a moment for collective responsibility and solidarity," the statement said, urging all stakeholders to respond decisively to ease the suffering of vulnerable Kenyans and prevent the crisis from spiraling further. Citing the latest Kenya Drought Report by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), Ole Naado noted a sharp

increase in the number of food-insecure households during the February–March 2025 period compared to the previous year. The situation has been aggravated by acute water shortages, with many families unable to access clean and safe water for household use and for sustaining their livestock. According to SUPKEM, the drought currently affects 23 counties, nine of which are classified as arid and 14 as semi-arid. Poor rainfall between October and December 2024, coupled with widespread crop failures, low agricultural productivity, rising fuel and fertiliser costs, and increased pests and diseases, has worsened both food and water insecurity. The consequences extend beyond immediate shortages, affecting health, education, and economic stability in the affected communities.

Kwale hosts grand mass wedding for 327 Muslim couples

Pomp and colour marked a historic occasion at Kwale Baraza Park in Matuga on Saturday as hundreds of residents gathered to witness one of the largest Muslim mass weddings ever held in the region. A total of 327 Muslim couples solemnized their marriages during the ceremony organized and sponsored by the Kwale-based non-governmental organization, Tandaza Foundation. The marriages were presided over by the Acting Chief Kadhi, Sheikh Sukyan Hassan Omar, in the presence of religious leaders, families and members of the public. The arrangement, sponsored and coordinated by Matuga Member of Parliament Kassim Ali Sawa, sought to ease the financial burden faced by couples from underprivileged backgrounds. The initiative was designed to help them overcome the high costs associated with wedding ceremonies and enable them to marry in

accordance with Islamic teachings, thereby protecting their chastity. In his address, the Matuga MP, Kassim Tandaza, said the primary objective of the event organized through his foundation was to legalize marriages in line with Islamic law, enabling couples to effectively fulfil their religious obligations. "For one to be pronounced husband and wife there must be certain legal procedures to be followed both religious and on the government side. So, I assisted to make it easy for them," he said. The MP noted that many young people are willing and ready to marry but face significant hurdles, particularly high bride price demands from some parents, which make organizing weddings difficult. On his part, Acting Chief Kadhi Sheikh Sukyan spoke on the virtue of marriage among the youth, emphasizing that Islam encourages simplicity in wedding ceremonies. He

praised the mass wedding initiative for significantly reducing costs and time. "A 'normal' wedding involves huge budgets compared to a mass wedding, the former is more affordable," he said. Sheikh Sukyan lauded the Tandaza Foundation under the patronage of Matuga MP Kassim Ali Tandaza for spearheading the programme, noting that it would help couples conform to Islamic law, avoid sinful behaviour and bring dignity and respect to their unions. At the same time, the Acting Chief Kadhi urged Muslim couples to register their marriages immediately after solemnization to avoid legal complications arising from unregistered unions. He revealed that his office would continue sensitizing and educating Muslims on the importance of marriage registration, adding that, unlike in the past, more people are increasingly taking steps to formalize their marriages.

Sheikh Rishard Rajab launches new book on strengthening Islamic marriages

Mombasa-based Islamic scholar, Sheikh Rishard Rajab Ramadhan, on Friday officially launched his new book, *The Sacred Bond: Building and Sustaining a Strong Islamic Marriage*, in a ceremony attended by hundreds of religious leaders, scholars and dignitaries. The launch, held at Afraah Hall in Mombasa, drew a large audience of ulamaa, Imams from different mosques, and Islamic teachers from Mombasa and other towns within the coastal region, underscoring the significance of the publication within the Islamic scholarly community. Sheikh Rishard Rajab Ramadhan, Holder of a bachelor degree in Shari'ah from Islamic University of Madinah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, one of the recipients of the 100 most influential Muslims in Kenya Award, is an Islamic scholar, author and academician who is the Principal of one of the best performing national schools in Kenya - Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Secondary School. The event was also attended by notable figures, including Former retired Chief Kadhi Sheikh Hammad Kassim, Sheikh Badru Khamis, Sheikh Ahmed Badawy, Principal Secretary, Professor Shaukat Abdulrazak, Dr. Mohammed Shaush, Speaker of Mombasa County Assembly Hon. Aharub Ebrahim Khatri and CECM Mombasa County

for Blue Economy Ibrahim Khamis, among others, who highlighted the book's importance in providing guidance for modern, faith-based relationships. In his new publication, Sheikh Rishard structures a central chapter around the acronym M.A.R.R.I.A.G.E (Marriage, Aspiration, Relationship, Realism, Inspiration, Adjustment, Growth, Empowerment), offering readers a practical framework for understanding and nurturing marital relationships. The book addresses key issues such as selecting a spouse, maintaining and growing in marriage, and is designed to provide actionable advice for building a successful, long-term partnership. Published by Dr. Audi Publishers, *The Sacred Bond* offers practical guidance for creating healthy, resilient marital unions grounded in the Qur'an and Sunnah. The publication centers on building, strengthening and maintaining a strong Islamic marriage, with a focus on the rights, roles and responsibilities of spouses. Speakers at the launch commended the author for tackling



contemporary marital challenges through a faith-based lens and expressed hope that the book would serve as a vital resource for couples, counsellors and religious leaders across the country. The launch concluded with prayers for the success of the publication and for stronger family units within the Muslim community.

Supreme Court upholds Kibos Nubian Community land rights in landmark ruling

The Supreme Court of Kenya has delivered a major victory to the Kibos Nubian community, dismissing Kenya Railways' (KR) bid to reclaim land in Kisumu. The apex court's bench, comprising Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court Martha Koome, Deputy Chief Justice and Vice-President Philomena Mwili, Justice Dr. Smokin Wanjala, Lady Justice Njoki Susanna Ndung'u, Justice Isaac Lenaola and Justice William Ouko, dismissed Kenya Railway Corporation's application for conservatory orders, ruling that the application lacks merit. In the ruling delivered on January 30, 2026, Kenya Railways was also ordered to cater for the costs of the case. The landmark decision upholds a Court of Appeal judgment affirming the community's land ownership and recognizes that the forced 2021 demolitions violated their rights to housing and dignity. In February 2021, approximately 3,500 families were forcibly removed from the land, their homes reduced to rubble, leaving them homeless and without access to essential services. Last year, the Court of Appeal in Kisumu dismissed the Kenya Railways appeal. Subsequent Supreme Court proceedings have now confirmed that decision, with the apex court declining to interfere with the appellate court's findings. The dispute traces back to a decision by the Environment and Land Court (ELC), which found Kenya Railways' eviction of Kibos

residents illegal, inhumane, and unconstitutional. The ELC ruled that the community had been occupying the land since 1937 and had acquired long-term licenses from the colonial government, granting them legally recognizable rights over the property. The residents, led by Fatuma Khamis Birah and five others, moved to court after Kenya Railways issued a seven-day eviction notice in March 2020. The notice was followed by forceful demolitions that left thousands homeless. In their petition, the residents argued that they were not accorded a fair hearing, proper eviction notices, or

alternative housing. They contended that the evictions violated their constitutional rights to dignity, property, fair administrative action, and adequate housing, as provided under the Kenyan Constitution and international human rights laws. Kenya Railways maintained that the land in question was railway reserve land under a 1986 vesting order and had never been fully allocated to the Nubian community. The corporation further argued that the demolitions were conducted lawfully after due notices had been issued.

SPACE TO LET !!!

Jamia Plaza

- Three offices 3rd Floor
- Office 2nd Floor

Jamia Towers

- Office 1st floor
- Six offices 2nd floor
- Shop

ALL APPLICATIONS TO:

The Secretary General Jamia Mosque Committee P.O.BOX.
100786-00101, Nairobi Or drop the at
Jamia Mosque Administration (First Floor)

Prof. Laila Abubakar urges learners to prioritise education at career day event

Technical University of Mombasa (TUM) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Laila Abubakar, has called on learners to prioritise education as the cornerstone of both social transformation and economic advancement. Speaking during a Career Day event, Prof. Abubakar encouraged students to make deliberate and informed decisions about their academic and professional journeys. She underscored the importance of aligning personal interests and talents with career choices in order to achieve fulfilment and long-term success. Quoting former U.S. President John F. Kennedy, she said, "Education is the foundation for both social and economic progress," and echoed Nelson Mandela, noting that "education is the most power-

ful weapon that you can use to change the world." Prof. Abubakar advised students to understand their strengths and passions early, particularly as Kenya's senior school system now provides three pathways under the Competency-Based Education (CBE) model. She noted that the new framework is designed to help learners identify suitable career paths and make well-informed decisions about their futures. "Passion is key. Know the subjects you enjoy, and let your career choices reflect that. Not everyone has to be a doctor or an engineer; there are many opportunities in the blue economy, social sciences, and community development," Prof. Abubakar said. She further highlighted the importance of discipline, especially for students preparing for

examinations. The TUM Vice Chancellor urged learners to focus on their long-term goals and pursue them with commitment and consistency.

In addition, she encouraged students to embrace digital literacy programmes and acquire practical skills that would enhance their competitiveness in the modern job market. "Every minute is important. Do something productive, whether it's learning a skill, creating, or improving your knowledge. You are the one to create your future," she concluded. The Career Day event, organised by Nurturing Stars, sought to equip students with guidance and insights to help them make informed academic and professional decisions in an evolving educational landscape.

CRA Commissioner urges Muslims to invest in education infrastructure

A Commissioner at the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA), Hadija Juma Nganyi, has challenged Muslim leaders and community members to come out strongly in support of the promotion and growth of education in their institutions of learning.

Commissioner Hadija observed that infrastructure directly influences learning outcomes and noted that support from Muslims and their leadership is a critical element in driving the growth and improvement of education standards in Muslim-owned educational institutions. Speaking on Sunday during World Hijab Day celebrations at Khungoyokosi Muslim Primary School in Kakamega County, Hadija called on education stakeholders within the Muslim community to prioritise investment in education infrastructure to protect Muslim schools from being taken over by the government and other faith communities. Hadija, who expressed concern over the poor state of infrastructure in many Muslim schools in the region, lamented that several Muslim-sponsored schools were grappling with challenges due to a lack of basic facilities such as classrooms, laboratories, dormitories, libraries and sanitation amenities.

"Alhamdulillah every constituency in Kakamega county has a Muslim school, all the four counties in Western, Vihi-

ga, Bungoma, and Busia have Muslim schools. However, we have neglected these schools to the extent that the other day Bo Yusuf Muslim primary school in Vihiga was almost closed due to lack of basic things like toilets," She said.

She added that these deficiencies create an unhealthy and unsafe learning environment, making it difficult for students to concentrate and learn effectively.

In an increasingly digital world, Hadija emphasised the need to equip schools with computer laboratories and reliable electricity to enhance digital learning, noting that access to technology is crucial for modern education. She decried that most Muslim schools in underserved areas lack computers, internet access and other digital tools, placing students at a significant disadvantage in acquiring essential skills for the future.

The CRA Commissioner emphasised that it was imperative for Muslims and their leaders to join hands in uplifting academic standards in their schools by providing the necessary support to improve existing infrastructure to attract more students to Muslim-sponsored institutions offering quality education.

For this to be achieved, Hadija said there must be a close and cordial working relationship between schools, parents, sponsors and members of the community in the

construction, utilisation and maintenance of school facilities. She further pointed out that funds currently being channelled into the construction of mosques — some of which have more than enough capacity and limited congregants — could be redirected towards setting up infrastructure in schools and establishing other key projects such as a national Muslim hospital.

"Other communities and faith have come out strongly to support their institutions which have propelled them to be among the leading institutions and academic giants in the region and the country at large. We need to borrow a leaf from them and fully support our own institutions as this will ultimately and greatly benefit the Muslim community," she added.

Hadija urged Muslims and education stakeholders to develop a comprehensive education plan and establish more Muslim-owned and sponsored schools to cater for the educational needs of Muslim children, in order to address frequent cases of discrimination against Muslim students in institutions sponsored by other faiths.

"We need to build schools and ensure our children receive both Islamic and contemporary education to nurture professionals who will contribute to uplift the standards of living and development of the Muslim Ummah," she said.

Kenya's religious leaders sign landmark child safeguarding declaration

Continued From Page 2

when they promote compassion, dignity, and accountability, hearts change, and norms begin to shift in favour of our children," he added.

IRCK Executive Director Mr. Linus Nthigai reaffirmed the council's continued efforts in championing child protection across the country, emphasizing the commitment to ensuring that places of worship remain safe spaces where children are protect-

ed from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Although Kenya has made significant legal and policy gains — including Article 53 of the Constitution, the Children Act (2022), and Kenya's ratification of international instruments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child — violence against children persists in many forms.

This often occurs within homes, communities and institutions meant to provide

care and protection. Religious leaders, with their deep community reach, are uniquely positioned to challenge harmful norms, promote child-friendly values and foster safe spaces for children. Stakeholders at the summit underscored that their influence will be crucial in mobilising nationwide action to end violence and ensure every Kenyan child enjoys a safe and dignified upbringing.