

# THE FRIDAY BULLETIN

The Weekly Muslim Update



A Publication of the Jamia Mosque Nairobi

## Ruto: Muslim leadership in Government is a constitutional right, not a favour

**P**resident William Ruto has affirmed that Kenyan Muslims have a right to hold leadership positions in government, stressing that such roles are not favours but constitutional entitlements of citizenship.

Speaking during an Iftar dinner at State House in Mombasa, the President assured Muslim religious and political leaders that their participation in government is guaranteed by the Constitution and should never be viewed as a privilege granted by any leader. Ruto noted that Kenya belongs to all its people and that leadership should reflect the country's diversity.

"Our nation draws great strength from its diversity of faiths and cultures. It is through such shared moments that we reaffirm our commitment to mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and the common good," he said.

He emphasized that every Kenyan deserves an equal opportunity to serve, regardless of religion or background, adding that a strong sense of belonging is key to building a stable and united nation. The President further underscored that Muslims serving in public office do so on merit and qualification, in line with constitutional provisions.

The Head of State said the government recognises the vital role of the Muslim community in national development, noting their contributions across sectors such as business, education,

community development, and leadership. "As Muslims, the positions you hold in government today are not favours; they are rights you are entitled to as all other citizens of Kenya," he said.

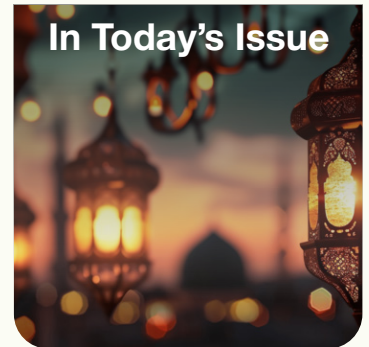
Ruto warned against attempts to sow division along religious or ethnic lines, maintaining that his administration is committed to merit, inclusivity, and engagement with Muslim leaders to address issues affecting their communities.

He also reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring Muslims have access to national identity cards and passports, describing the move as part of efforts to correct historical injustices.

Iftar dinners hosted by the President have in recent years become a regular tradition, offering an opportunity for leaders and members of the Muslim community to reflect during the holy month of Ramadhan.

The gathering—described as the first of its kind in the coastal city—brought together Muslim leaders and senior government officials to share the breaking of the fast.

Among those in attendance were Abdulsamad Shariff Nassir, Aden Duale, Junet Mohamed, Salim Mvurya, and Oburu Odinga, among other leaders.



### In Today's Issue

#### 1 Eid: A day of gratitude & glory

The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said, "Indeed Allah has substituted for you something better than these two days: the Day of al-Adha and the Day of al-Fitr" (Abu Dawud). Eid al-Fitr is a day of celebration for the whole Ummah.

#### 2 Carry the spirit of Ramadan throughout the year, Muslims advised.

Muslims have been urged to uphold the virtues and spiritual gains attained during the holy month of Ramadan, not only for personal growth but also in pursuit of the pleasure of Allah.

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

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## Worshippers fill Streets on the last Friday of Ramadhan at Jamia Mosque Nairobi



A section of congregants performing the last Friday Salah of Ramadhan 1447 outside Jamia Mosque Nairobi, after the mosque reached full capacity and Banda Street was closed to accommodate the overflow of worshippers.

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## Muslims mark Eid-ul-Fitr with prayers across the country

The festival of Eid-ul-Fitr will be observed today, March 20, 2026, corresponding to 1 Shawwal 1447 in the Islamic calendar, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadhan.

Thousands of Muslim faithful across the globe are expected to gather for special prayers at mosques and designated open grounds.

In Nairobi, Eid-ul-Fitr prayers will be held at Jamia Mosque Nairobi, Sir Ali Muslim Club grounds in Ngara, among other venues. In Garissa County, hundreds of Muslims are expected to gather at the General Mohamad Mohamed Eid Grounds in Garissa Town.

In Wajir, worshippers will assemble at Orahey Grounds, while in Isiolo, prayers will be held at the Isiolo Islamic Institute grounds.

In Mombasa, congregants will gather at Ronald Ngala Grounds and Tononoka Grounds for Eid prayers. Meanwhile, in Kisumu, Muslim residents will converge at Highway School grounds.

In Nakuru, Eid prayers will be observed at various mosques and at Menengai High School grounds. In Kakamega, worshippers will gather at the Kakamega Jamia and Islamic Centre grounds, while in Bungoma, prayers will be held at the Bungoma Muslim Centre (BMC) grounds.

In Busia County, faithful are expected to assemble at Polytechnic grounds.

Eid-ul-Fitr is an important Islamic festival that marks the end of Ramadhan, a month-long period of fasting observed by Muslims worldwide.

Fasting during Ramadhan is obligatory for every adult Muslim, male and female, with exemptions granted to children who have not reached puberty, the elderly, and those who are unable to fast due to health or other valid reasons. Muslims celebrate two major Eids each year: Eid-ul-Fitr, which marks the end of fasting, and Eid-ul-Adha, the festival of sacrifice.

## Leaders warned against rising use of abusive political rhetoric

Political leaders across the country have been cautioned against the growing use of vulgar language, insults, and inciting rhetoric during public rallies, as preparations for the 2027 General Election gather momentum.

Prominent Islamic scholar Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome has strongly condemned the trend, warning that such conduct is eroding the dignity of leadership and fuelling division among citizens.

Speaking during a live interview on a local media station on Wednesday night, Sheikh Lethome criticised politicians for abandoning their responsibility to uphold decorum, instead engaging in early campaigns marked by personal attacks and derogatory language.

He said the rising incidence of insults and

intolerance among political leaders risks normalising toxic behaviour, particularly among young people who look up to them.

"It is very sad to sit at home and watch this, knowing that the youngsters are also watching. What kind of manners are we teaching our children? There can be no justification at all. We need to begin by respecting ourselves. Just because somebody else has hurled insults at me, that does not make it right—two wrongs don't make a right," he said.

Sheikh Lethome urged leaders to exercise restraint and shift their focus to development-driven agendas that address the needs of citizens, rather than engaging in confrontational politics.

He expressed concern that pressing national issues, including floods and econom-

ic hardships, are being overshadowed by divisive political exchanges that he said are both irritating and embarrassing to Kenyans.

Sheikh Lethome further warned that unchecked political toxicity could lead to dangerous levels of national fragmentation, calling for greater responsibility among leaders to safeguard peace and cohesion.

He emphasised the importance of tolerance despite political differences, noting that unity can only be achieved through mutual respect.

"The only way to guarantee unity is to accept our differences. We want peace and unity, tolerance and accepting one another," he added.

## EDITORIAL

### Rights denied: Muslim Students still face discrimination in Kenyan Schools

Reports of violations of Muslim students' rights continue to surface from schools across the country, exposing a worrying pattern of religious discrimination.

The recent incident at St. Mary's Lwak Girls High School in Asembo, Rarieda Sub-County, Siaya County, has once again brought this issue to national attention. Muslim students in several schools are still being forced to participate in activities that contradict their faith, while the principles enshrined in the constitution seem to be ignored.

Earlier this month, Muslim parents in Marsabit staged a peaceful protest at St. Theresa's Girls Primary and Junior School, demanding that their daughters be allowed to wear the hijab as part of the school uniform. Accompanied by their daughters, the parents called for clarity on a policy that has remained unresolved for more than five years.

They insisted that wearing the hijab is a constitutional right and that Muslim girls should not be denied education or discriminated against because of their faith.

Similarly, on Monday, parents in Likoni Sub-County raised complaints against Consolata Primary School, a church-sponsored institution, for violating the religious rights of Muslim learners. While these schools are faith-based, they are publicly funded, meaning taxpayers—including Muslims—support them. Yet violations continue to occur with alarming frequency.

Discrimination against Muslim students has, tragically, become normalized in many schools. Principals at the forefront of these violations often appear driven by personal bias against Islam. Forced attendance at church services and denial of space for religious observance are just some of the abuses that remain prevalent, particularly in church-run institutions.

When Kenya's constitution was promulgated in 2010, it promised to safeguard the rights of all citizens, irrespective of ethnic or religious background. For Muslim students, these protections have often remained on paper. Despite repeated circulars from the Ministry of Education affirming that wearing the hijab is a constitutional right, en-

forcement has been weak. Schools continue discriminatory practices with little fear of accountability. This lack of action undermines national messages about tolerance, cohesion, and unity. When violations affect Muslims, the rhetoric often fades into silence. The culture of impunity surrounding religious discrimination in schools has reached unacceptable levels.

Immediate action is needed. Principals who enforce discriminatory policies must be held accountable. More importantly, the Ministry of Education must take bold steps to ensure that the constitutional rights of Muslim students are not just recognized but actively protected. All Kenyan children deserve an education free from discrimination, and the responsibility for safeguarding these rights rests squarely with the ministry and Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba.

It is time for schools to respect the law, for policymakers to act decisively, and for Muslim students to enjoy the rights promised to them under the constitution. The era of ignoring these violations must end.

## Eid: A day of gratitude & glory

After a month of effort, sleeplessness and fatigue, Allah (‘azza wa jall) has rewarded us with the Day of Eid. Allahu Akbar!

Anas (raḍiy Allahu ‘anhu) said: The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) came to Madinah, and the people (of Madinah) had two days in which they would play and have fun. He (Peace be upon him) asked, “What are these two days?” They replied, “We used to play and have fun in them during the pre-Islamic period.” The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said, “Indeed Allah has substituted for you something better than these two days: the Day of al-Adḥa and the Day of al-Fiṭr” (Abu Dawud). Eid al-Fiṭr is a day of celebration for the whole Ummah. We, the sinners, have inshaAllah been forgiven throughout this month. It is a day of joy and happiness. We should be happy that Allah (‘azza wa jall) allowed us to fast and perform qiyam throughout Ramadhan. And we should be grateful that He granted us a month of immense blessings, forgiveness and goodness, and blessed us with Laylat al-Qadr. Allah (‘azza wa jall) says, “Say: In Allah’s grace and mercy let them rejoice. That is far better than whatever (wealth) they accumulate” (Surah Yunus 10:58). Eid is a joyous day: a day when we wear our best clothes, attend the Eid ṣalah, and spend the day spreading love and joy in our families and communities. We congratulate each other and ask Allah to accept each other’s deeds in Ramadhan. We strengthen family bonds by inviting and visiting our relatives. We share food with our neighbours and the poor. Eid is the greatest gathering of Muslims. It is a symbol of strength, unity, brotherhood and love. It is a day full of blessings and opportunities to be forgiven. Umm ‘Atiyyah (raḍiy Allahu ‘anha) said, “We used to be ordered to come out on the day of Eid, even the young girls and menstruating women from their houses. They would stand behind the men and declare the greatness of Allah along with them, and supplicate to Allah along with them, hoping for the blessings of that day and its purification (from sin)” (Bukhari). Eid is a day of takbir. Allah (subḥanahu wa ta’ala) says, “...He wants you to complete the prescribed period (the month of Ramadhan) and to glorify Allah for having guided you; so that you may be thankful” (Surah Al Baqarah 2:185).

Allahu Akbar is the declaration of Allah’s absolute greatness, perfection and might. As He is greater than everyone and everything, He is the only One who deserves to be worshipped and glorified. On this day of happiness and joy, we glorify and thank Allah for allowing us to complete a month of obedience and good deeds. We thank Him for bestowing us with the greatest blessing: the blessing of iman. The Day of Eid is a day of joy and happiness, not a day of sin and disobedience to Allah. Islam is a religion of bal-

ance. We can have fun — so long as it is ḥalal, in moderation, and we don’t make it our sole purpose. Don’t ruin your efforts of Ramadhan by engaging in ḥaram on this blessed day. Don’t switch from listening to the Qur’an to listening to music. Pray all five ṣalāhs with the congregation in the masjid. Preserve your modesty and don’t flaunt your beauty in public or online. Waki’ (raḥimahullah) said, “We went out with Suḥfyan al-Thawri (raḥimahullah) on Eid and he said, ‘The first thing that we will begin this day of ours with is the lowering of the gaze.’”

On this great day, we remember those who are suffering and oppressed, the orphans and the widows, the unjustly imprisoned and those who are sick. May Allah bring

the happiness of Eid to the entire Ummah and restore its honour and glory. May your Eid be blessed!

“The believer has five Eids:

1. Every day that passes from his life without a sin being written down against him is a day of Eid.
2. The day that he will exit from this world with iman is a day of Eid.
3. The day he will cross the ṣiraṭ (the bridge over Hell) and is saved from the horrors of the Day of Judgement is a day of Eid.
4. The day that he will walk into Jannah is a day of Eid.
5. The day he sees His Lord is a day of Eid.”

-Imam Malik (raḥimahullah)

## 7 Sunnahs on the night and day of Eid

By Aliza Kim

We’re going to talk about a few Sunnahs to do in Eid. There’s going to be one sunnah that starts from the night before ‘Eid and then a few more that happen on the morning of ‘Eid.

### Takbir

In Islam, the new day basically starts at Maghrib. So as soon as we know that the next day is going to be Eid, we start saying the Takbir of ‘eid-ul-fitr. This is different than the takbir of ‘Eid-ul-Adha so don’t get confused. I’m only going to give you information Eid-ul-Fiṭr. How is takbir of ‘Eid-ul-Fiṭr done? Basically, you’re going to say: Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, La Ilaha Illa Allah, Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar wa lillahi Alhamd. (Allah is the most great, none has the right to be worshiped but Allah. Allah is the most great, and to Allah belongs all praise.) Once you’ve memorized this takbir, you should be saying it continuously. So starting from Maghrib until the next morning, when the Imam comes out for the ‘Eid prayers, you should be saying it all the time, when you’re cooking, when you’re working, when you’re driving... Keep saying it as much as you can.

### Before Eid Prayer

What happens when you wake up the next morning?

When you wake up for Fajr, the other Sunnahs that you could be practicing are:

- 1- Eat an odd number of dates
- 2- Take the ritual bath (Ghusl)
- 3- Get dressed up for ‘Eid prayers and also for men can perfume themselves. For women, you should dress neatly and nicely but modestly.

4- The main sunnah for ‘Eid is to go to ‘Eid prayers. Prophet Muhammad encouraged everyone to go, men, women, children, even the women who are menstruating are encouraged to go and listen to the prayers and khutbah. You might be wondering how ‘Eid prayers are offered. First of all, there is no adhan, no iqamah and when the imam is reciting, you just listen and then follow through with the movements. The actual

prayer is a two rak’ahs prayer done in congregation but it’s different from the Fajr prayer. In the first rak’ah there are seven takbir and in the second rak’ah there are five takbir, not including the takbir that you say before each movement.

In the first rak’ah you do the opening with takbir with your hands up and then you put your hands on your chest.

After that recite the opening du’a and then the imam starts with the takbir and you say the takbir after him. Then the imam will start the prayer with the opening (Al-Fatihah) and other chapter. When you stand up for the second rak’ah, the imam will again recite the takbir and you respond five times. Then you will go through chapter Al-Fatihah and a chapter, just like in the normal prayer, until you finish with salams.

### After the Eid Prayer

5- When the ‘Eid prayers are finished, basically worshipers should sit down and listen to the khutbah. As a reminder for us, no talking during the Khutbah! Just listen to the message of the imam and take in those blessings.

6- When the khutbah has been delivered, there will probably a flood of people who want to greet you. The sunnah greeting that you should be saying on eid: “Taqabbala Allah minna wa minkum” (May Allah accept from us the good deeds and also from you). The easiest response to this is to say “Ameen”.

7- The last Sunnah is leaving the place where you had ‘Eid prayers. When Prophet Muhammad wanted to go home after ‘Eid prayers, he actually took a different route. However he went to the place where he had the prayers, he would take a different route back home. We should also practice that too.

Reminder

If you have not paid your zakat-ul-Fiṭr, remember to do that before ‘Eid prayers. ‘Eid Mubarak!

## Juggling motherhood and celebrating `Eid

By Maria Zain

Eid is here. It's you, your husband, this great festivity, and... a truckload of children. Even on "normal" days, quite a lot of the havoc can be overwhelming. Preparing food, getting out of the house, and keeping those tantrums at bay—it sounds like it can't be done. Nevertheless, when there is a will—and plenty of du'a for a smooth and satisfying Eid—there is always a way. So, here are some tips to juggle being a mum and celebrating `Eid as a family.

### Rope in Your Husband

As we mother our children, we should always get their dad actively involved. Some husbands need more coaxing than others, but do persuade your husband to speak to your children about Eid and tell them about the importance of this day for all Muslims and why it's a good idea to be a cooperative team member of the family the next day. Also, ask your husband to help out with any chores that fall out of your reach. Juggling children effectively requires a strong partnership, so split the tasks and even involve your older children in Eid preparations.

### Practice `Eid Prayers with your Children

You may also want to run through the `Eid prayer with the children, since it's different from the obligatory prayers and only performed twice a year. This will help them be able to follow the congregation in the Masjid. Also remind them that though running and playing are ok for the younger ones, it's better to sit down together and listen to what the imam has to say before or after the `Eid prayer. It's about being respectful and diligent about worship and the other people who are there to engage in worship.

### Plan Your `Eid Meals

If you're planning to stay at home for `Eid, plan a hearty but easy-to-prepare meal. It's easier to cook in bulk for visitors. And while it's nice to have a nutritious meal, spending too much time in the kitchen can also be taxing, unless you're the type who thrives on culinary contributions.

### Make Headway the Night Before

It's the night before `Eid—take a break and relax. Put on some Qur'anic recitation and try to put the kids to sleep early.

Yes, they get excited, but assure them there is a long day ahead of them: Eid!

Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) has always advised to retire to bed right after Isha' prayers. So in order to rise bright and early—and without the crabby complex—make sure the children receive ample rest and sleep the night before.

Also, plan your trip to the Masjid the night before. What time do you have to leave? What's the easiest route there? Is there a longer route you can take back?

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon

Him) used to take different routes to and from the Masjid so he could meet a wider array of people and greet them. Perhaps this is a nice sunnah to put into practice.

What time do you have to leave the house? This will help plan bath and meal times in the morning. This is important, as leaving the house with kids can be challenging. At best, wake them up a little earlier so they can have the chance to eat leisurely without much fuss. Prepare their outfits the night before. Make sure the entire outfit is available and can be worn immediately. The last thing you want is to be running around like a headless chicken trying to get everyone dressed. Do you have presents for children or donations for `Eid? Pack them up before the big day and keep them in a place that you will remember. Use a memo to remind you when you need to bring them along as well. Lastly, tidy up the house together. A neater house will help everyone feel relaxed and calm. Granted, it's not always easy with children, and toy boxes tend to disintegrate when they are around, but try to keep away the clutter so you can leave for the Masjid the next morning in peace.

### Dressing Up the Family

Dressing up is a big thing for children. So do dress them in their best or new outfits

for `Eid as this is part of the sunnah.

Taking pictures of them on this big day serves as a great moment for the family.

### Remind Them of the Importance of `Eid

It normally doesn't take much to celebrate with children, but do remind them of this great festival for Muslims.

Making a big deal out of `Eid curbs future interest in more cultural or media-driven celebrations, which are often appealing and overwhelming for little children.

### Take an Opportunity to Think of the Less Fortunate

While in celebration, do take the opportunity to

think of those who may not be celebrating `Eid the same way as your family.

Take time to make du'a as a family for Muslims caught in war zones. Make du'a for Muslims in impoverished countries. If there is an opportunity to visit orphanages or old folks' homes on `Eid, take the time to do so. Some homes could do with some extra shine on the big day. But do plan ahead, as they may have their own plans too. Being reminded of the less fortunate, reminds us of how we should celebrate `Eid as well, in a humble and dignified manner. Celebration is also for the sake of Allah, so be mindful of what is permissible and the types of elements of celebration that we should avoid, like wastage, overeating, and/or excessive entertainment.

### Plan the Trips and Pack those Snacks

If you're out and about for `Eid, do plan wisely as well. Whom are you visiting?

Are you bringing gifts or snacks? What is your travel timeline like? Also, packing snacks for the kids is a good idea.

Since it will be an exciting day ahead, they may be too busy to eat. Make sure they receive adequate food intake, and this will help curb any potential tantrums.

Also, make provision for quiet time. indoors and spend time with them.

## Light of Knowledge Quiz

If Eid prayers falls on a Friday, the following are permissible EXCEPT ?

- A Either Perform the Eid or Jumu'ah prayer
- B Attend both the Eid and Jumu'ah prayer
- C After Eid prayers skip all prayers of the day

Answer to be revealed in the next issue

Last week's answer was choice A: "1,000 months"

## New Muslims in Eid: A survival guide

**By Idris Tawfiq**

We've chosen a special place to symbolize how special Eid is for all of us. So for all Muslims, and especially today for new Muslims, we wish you Eid Mubarak.

We're going to talk for a few minutes about the Eid, and how new Muslims especially can make this Eid special. So there are a number of things we want to say.

First of all, we want to say that in Islam there are two feasts: there is the feast of Eid Al-Fitr, which is the feast that comes after the holy month of Ramadan, and there is the feast of Eid Al-Adha, which is the feast that comes at the end of the Hajj, the pilgrimage.

The first one, Eid Al-Fitr, is the feast of fast-breaking, and Eid Al-Adha, the feast of sacrifice. Two feasts only, there are no other feasts in Islam, and they are very different to the feasts in any other religion. For this feast of Eid Al-Fitr, it's important to remember that this feast is not related to any historical event, it's not connected with any theological idea, and it has not been stolen by secular people who have turned the feast into a jamboree of spending and extravagance.

### The Real Purpose of Celebrating Eid

This feast comes at the end of Ramadan. It's the feast of fast-breaking. Now we need to be very clear, it's not a feast where Muslims say well thank God Ramadan is over, we can eat to our fill. That is not the idea. You completely misunderstand what the Eid is about.

During the month of Ramadan, Ramadan was a gift from Allah, Ramadan was a month of mercy, it was the month of forgiveness, the month of fasting for Allah's sake, the month of the Quran, the month of prayer, the month of thinking of those people less well-off than we are.

During this Eid, this feast of Eid Al-Fitr, we are thanking Allah All-Mighty for the gift of Ramadan. That's what the Eid is about. It's a religious celebration, it's not a worldly celebration. The purpose of the feast is thanking Allah for allowing us to fast for His sake during Ramadan. So that is what the feast is about. You know our Christian friends, many of them they've had their feast of Christmas stolen from them by big business. You know for months before Christmas, the shops are full of Christmas toys and Christmas cards, and there is pressure on parents to buy all sorts of gifts for their

children, getting more food than people can eat.

Well, the Muslim feast is very very simple. It's so simple as Islam is so very simple. The feast of Eid Al-Fitr is this: we pray in the morning in the mosque, and then we go home and celebrate with our families, and visit our friends. That's it. Maybe we might buy some new clothes for our children, maybe we have a special meal, but all that extravagance, it's not a feast of extravagance, extravagant waste in terms of time or money; it's a time of thinking about Allah.

### Prophet Muhammad in Eid

So what did Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him do? How did the Prophet celebrate this Eid?

It's important for new Muslims to know this, because if we see what the Prophet (peace be upon him) did we can get some idea of how we can celebrate the feast too.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) would spend the night before the Eid prayers in prayer. He would be praising Allah all night long saying Allahu Akbar, praising All-Mighty Allah for the gift of Ramadan. He would then take a bath, a complete bath, ghusl we call it in Arabic, a complete bath to purify ourselves and to make us completely clean for the feast. He would then eat before setting off for the mosque. He would eat an odd number of dates, three, five, seven dates maybe more. But why did he do that?

I think he did it to tell the Muslims Ramadan is over. There is no fasting in Eid, fasting is not allowed in Eid, so he would take the dates before setting off to the mosque, and he would take his wives and daughters with him to the mosque. When he'd get there, he would lead the prayers, he would give the khutbah, the sermon, and when the

prayers were finished, he would teach his wives and daughters about Allah, and he would encourage them to give charity, and when it was all finished, he would make his way home by a different route to the one he came.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) would wear a special cloak from Yemen, he would wear a special cloak for the two feasts. So this is what we have, and when we go to the mosque on the morning of the first day of Eid – it's a three day feast – on the first morning usually there are so many worshippers, the prayers take place outside the mosque, and we begin with Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar, seven times, remembering that Allah is the most great, and nothing else in the world is as important as Him.

So we've set the scene. We've tried to understand what Eid is, we've tried to look at what our beloved Prophet, peace be upon him, did, and his companions by the way, peace be upon them all, their tradition was they would put on perfume for the Eid, they would dress in their best clothes. So here we have some hint of what we can do.

### My First Eid as a Muslim

So what you can do, we'll deal with in a moment. I want to tell you first about my own first Eid as a Muslim. Ramadan had been new for me. I'd experienced Ramadan for the first time, and I'd learned how to fast, and it was all very exciting, I wanted to do all things right. You know how as new Muslims we want to do everything right; we want to pray the right way, we want to sit the right way, we don't want to do anything that all the other Muslims would look at us and say why is she doing that for, or why is he doing that.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

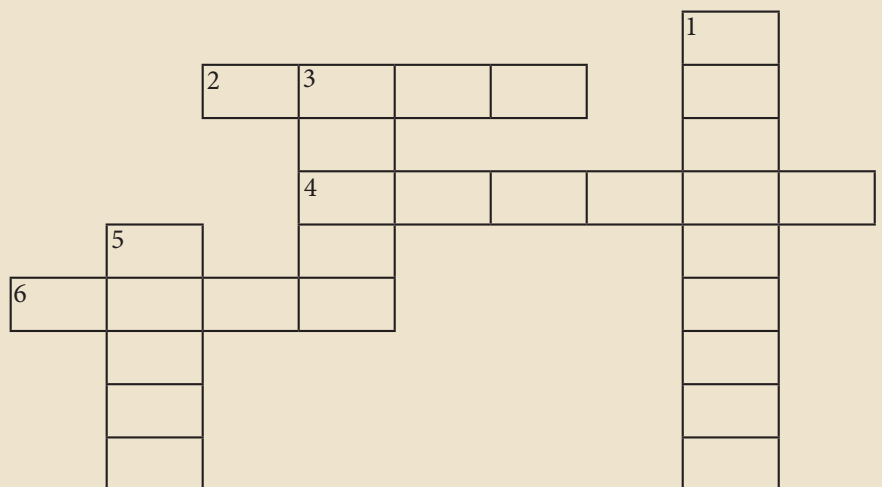
### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

#### ACROSS

- 4. Al Muhaymin
- 5. Eid
- 6. Masad

#### Down

- 1. Ghaym
- 2. Qadr
- 3. Bilal



#### ACROSS

- 2. The Surah whose name means "The Divine Help".
- 4. Surah that lists the groups eligible for Zakat.
- 6. Eid celebrated at the end of Ramadan.

#### DOWN

- 1. The Name of Allah meaning "The Inheritor"
- 3. The Arabic term for Rain.
- 5. How many groups of people are eligible for Zakat according to the Qur'an.

# 1447/2026 RAMADHAN PICTORIAL



1. Overall winner of the 13th Annual Jamia Mosque Boys Quran Competition, Abdirazak Abdi being awarded a plaque, cash prize and Certificate of Participation by the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Cultural Attaché to Kenya, Mohammed bin Mater Mahz on 19th February at Jamia.

2. The Deputy Ambassador of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Kenya, H.E. Khalid Saeed Al-Zahrani (SECOND LEFT), alongside the Cultural Attaché, Mohammed bin Mater Mahzari (THIRD LEFT), Jamia Mosque Committee Deputy Chairman, Abdullatif Essajee (THIRD RIGHT), Jamia Mosque Committee Secretary General Abdulbari Hamid (SECOND RIGHT), Acting Chief Kadhi Sheikh Sukyan Hassan Omar (RIGHT) and SUPKEM North-eastern Regional Coordinator Dr. Adan Yunis during (LEFT) the launch of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Gift Program for Iftar and date distribution at Jamia Multi-Purpose Hall on 19th February.

3. Overall winner of the 13th Annual Jamia Mosque Girls Quran Competition, Hafsa Omar Ali being awarded a plaque, cash prize and Certificate of Participation by the Da'awah Convener of Jamia Mosque Committee, Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome (RIGHT) at Jamia Mosque on 28th February.

4. Da'awah Convener of Jamia Mosque Committee, Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome awarding a trophy to Wamy Academy Girls High School after emerging the 2026 Ramadhan Quiz Winners on 8th March at Jamia TV Studio.

5. The High Commissioner of Malaysia to Kenya, His Excellency Ruzaimi Mohamad (SECOND RIGHT) handing over a copy of the Holy Quran to the Jamia Mosque Committee deputy chairman Abdullatif Essajee (CENTRE) on 10th March at the Mosque.

6. Jamia Mosque Secretary General, Abdulbari Hamid (THIRD LEFT) receiving a dummy cheque from Gulf Bank Head of Shariah Compliance, Nasser Abdulwahab (THIRD RIGHT) to support needy individuals during the Holy Month of Ramadhan, at Jamia Mosque Nairobi on 20th February.

7. Bamburi Cement Supply Chain Director, Kassim Mohammed (RIGHT) pose for a photo with Jamia Mosque Nairobi Executive Officer, Said Abdallah during the handing-over ceremony of over 200 Ramadhan Food Packages for the needy, on 3rd March at Jamia Mosque.

# 1447/2026 RAMADHAN PICTORIAL



8. A section of disabled beneficiaries of Jamia Mosque's 2026 Ramadhan Dry Iftar Programme, pose for a photo after receiving their packages on 27th February at Jamia Mosque. A package contains Ten kg of rice, Eight kg of Maize flour, Five kg of Sugar, Five kg of Beans, Eight kg of Wheat flour, Three litres of Cooking Oil and One kg of Salt, Dates and Tea Leaves.

9. Gachie beneficiaries pose for a photo during the distribution drive, held at Parklands on 25th February, 20 packets were distributed.

10. Mukuru Slums beneficiaries pose for a photo during the distribution drive, held at Souh B on 28th February, 130 packages were issued.

11. Deep Sea Slum beneficiaries pose for a photo during the distribution drive, held at Parklands Mosque on 26th February, 85 packages were donated.

12. Kiambu, Mlango Kubwa beneficiaries pose for a photo during the distribution drive, held at Eastleigh on 24th February, 410 packages were donated.

13. Kibra Slums beneficiaries, pose for a photo during the distribution drive at Adams Mosque (Ngong Road) on 26th February, 120 Packages were distributed.

14. Garissa county beneficiaries of the 2026 Ramadhan Dry Food Iftar collect their packages, the outreach programme also covered Mandera County and other drought-stricken areas where a 1000 food packages were distributed.

15. Outreach Packages of Jamia Mosque's 2026 Ramadhan Dry Food Iftar Programme for Rhamu, Mandera County on display.

16. Muslim faithfuls breaking their fast at during the 30 days hot meal program that was sponsored by the Saudi Government in collaboration with Jamia Mosque Committee Nairobi.

17. Pamoja Forum Volunteers distributing water and dates to Muslims starved in traffic. The program was supported by Jamia Mosque Committee .

## Muslims urged to pay Zakat promptly to support the needy

Muslims across the country have been urged to promptly pay Zakat and Zakat-ul-Fitr to support the poor and vulnerable in society.

The call was made by Abdullatif Essajee, who encouraged the faithful to extend support to those in need and help improve their livelihoods.

Speaking during a pre-khutbah session at Jamia Mosque Nairobi, Essajee reminded Muslims of their obligation to assist less fortunate members of the community. He stressed the importance of utilising God-given wealth to fulfil this duty in a timely manner.

“Islam encourages mutual support, foster-

ing respect and compassion among people regardless of family ties, friendship, or social status. One of the key ways of actualising this is through giving alms,” he said.

Essajee explained that Zakat-ul-Fitr is an obligatory charity due at the end of the holy month of Ramadan. He called on Muslim leaders to intensify efforts to revive the spirit of Zakat-ul-Fitr and other charitable giving to help bridge the gap between the rich and the poor.

The Deputy Chairman of Jamia Mosque Nairobi further noted that the Prophet Muhammad instructed Muslims to pay Zakat-ul-Fitr before proceeding for Eid prayers. He added that the charity is due on behalf

of every Muslim family member, including newborns and dependants.

He said the primary purpose of Zakat-ul-Fitr is to purify the fasting person from any indecent act or speech committed during Ramadan, while also ensuring that the less fortunate are provided for.

Essajee emphasised that the poor and needy remain the most deserving beneficiaries, noting that the essence of the charity is to provide food for those in need.

Zakat-ul-Fitr may be given in the form of foodstuffs or cash during the last ten days of Ramadan, but must be paid before the Eid prayer.

## Mombasa Speaker urges leaders to prioritize citizens over personal gain

Mombasa County Assembly Speaker Aharub Khatri has called on leaders to exercise integrity in handling public resources, warning against treating government funds as personal property.

Speaking during a Ramadan food donation event for widows in Mombasa, Khatri emphasized that public funds are entrusted to elected officials by citizens and must be used responsibly to improve the lives of the people.

“Today we need leaders who, instead of thinking about how to take a share of public funds, focus on adding value and delivering results for the citizens,” Khatri said.

The Speaker urged transparency in the management of government programs, including constituency and county development funds. “We do not want to see a leader get into office and immediately

think about how to take half of the money meant for the people,” he added.

Khatri also cautioned residents against leaders who exploit ethnic divisions for political gain. “The politics of tribalism and hatred must be rejected because it brings no benefit. Here, people from all communities live together as neighbours,” he said.

Highlighting the natural unity among children in the community, the Speaker noted, “When children go outside to play, they do not ask whether someone is Mijikenda, Arab, or from another community—they simply play together. That is how we live here, and it is a unity we must protect.”

He further urged citizens to demand leadership focused on development rather than divisive politics, noting that Kenya has struggled with ethnic-based politics since independence.



Khatri concluded by highlighting the importance of charitable acts during Ramadan, saying they strengthen social bonds and reflect the compassion and generosity that the holy month encourages.

## Naivasha Maximum Prison Muslim inmates benefits from Jamia Mosque Dry Iftar Program



In the spirit of compassion and solidarity that defines the holy month of Ramadhan, Jamia Mosque Nairobi, through its Social Responsibility program, extended a hand of care to Muslim inmates at Naivasha Maximum Prison. The mosque facilitated the distribution of essential dry food supplies—including cooking oil, wheat flour, rice, sugar, and salt—to support the inmates in preparing and observing Iftar with dignity during the just concluded fasting period.

This initiative reflects a continued commitment to inclusivity and humanity, ensuring that even those within correctional facilities are not forgotten, and are able to share in the blessings and spiritual significance of Ramadhan.

## Post-Ramadhan: The journey continues

Throughout Ramadhan, by Allah's favour, we tasted the sweetness of fasting and the night prayer. We revived our dead hearts with the recitation of the Qur'an and the dhikr of Allah. We basked in the serenity of talking to Allah and felt the peace of seeking His forgiveness in the last parts of the night. Now that Ramadhan is over, let us ask ourselves: what next? What did we gain from Ramadhan? How did it change us? Did it transform our lives? Will our life post-Ramadhan look exactly the same as life pre-Ramadhan? Just a short while ago, we were planning for the 'dream project' of Ramadhan. Now that Ramadhan has ended, we should spend time in Shawwal to evaluate our Ramadhan.

### Evaluate Your Ramadan

We can evaluate our Ramadhan by asking ourselves the following questions:

1. Did my iman in Allah increase? What do I know about Allah that I didn't prior to Ramadhan? Do I feel closer to Him?
2. Did I go to Allah with a broken heart in utter desperation? Did I humble myself as a true servant of His?
3. Were there times in the month where my heart felt overwhelmed with love and gratitude for Allah?
4. Did my love for Allah's Messenger (Peace be upon him) increase? Which sunnah am I going to start implementing in my life that I previously didn't used to do?
5. Did my worship in Ramadhan purify and soften my heart?
6. Did my fasting cause me to give up my bad habits?
7. Which sins of the eyes and the tongue did I give up? What steps am I going to take to maintain this?
8. Did I improve my akhlaq in this month?
9. Did I become a more gentle and loving family member?
10. Did I taste the sweetness of spending in the path of Allah? Did I give charity in secret?
11. Has Ramadhan made me more determined to continue serving the din of Allah and the Ummah?
12. Did I taste the sweetness of solitude with Allah at night in qiyam? Has it made me determined to continue with this good deed?
13. Did I feel a difference in the quality of my salah?
14. Did I feel emotionally connected to the Qur'an?
15. Did I feel the closeness of Allah when making du'a' to Him?
16. Did I do dhikr with the presence of my heart?
17. Which one act of worship am I going to hold on to from Ramadhan, something which I previously did not used to do?
18. What do I not want to lose of Ramadhan?
19. Do I feel a greater level of self-control

now that Ramadhan is over?

20. If Allah gives me life, what two things will I do differently next Ramadhan?

Fasting in Shawwal

One of the things we can do to keep our momentum going is fast six days of Shawwal. The Messenger of Allah (Peace be upon him) said, "Fasting Ramadhan is like fasting ten months, and fasting six days thereafter (in Shawwal) is like fasting two months. That is like fasting a whole year" (Ahmad).

Ibn Rajab (rahimahullah) explains the benefits of keeping the 6 Shawwal fasts:

1. The reward of fasting the entire year. As Allah ('azza wa jall) rewards tenfold for a good deed, a servant will be rewarded for ten months of fasting due to fasting for the month of Ramadhan; and the 6 days of fasting will be equivalent to fasting two further months, making it a total of a year.
2. Fasting in Sha'ban and Shawwal is like performing the sunan mu'akkadah (rawatib) prayers before and after the farḍ ṣalāh. They make up for and atone for the deficiencies of the farḍ acts.
3. Continuing to fast after Ramadhan is a sign that one's Ramadhan was accepted. If Allah ('azza wa jall) accepts a good deed, he gives his servant the tawfiq to follow this up with another good deed, as a pious predecessor said: 'The reward of a good deed is another good deed'.
4. Fasting in Ramadhan leads to one's sins being forgiven, and those who fasted in Ramadhan are given their reward in full on the Day of Eid i.e. the Day of Prizes. Fasting after Eid is a means of thanking Allah (subḥānahu wa ta'āla) for this blessing. Fasting is a blessing, which requires one to be grateful for it by fasting even more; for there is no blessing greater than the forgiveness of one's sins. Allah ('azza wa jall) has commanded His servants to thank Him for the blessing of fasting in Ramadhan. This includes thanking Allah by fasting after Ramadhan. Some of the pious predecessors would fast the day in order



to thank Allah for granting them tawfiq to stand the previous night in prayer.

5. The actions through which one seeks to attain Allah's closeness in Ramadhan do not come to an end with the end of Ramadhan. Rather one must continue with them throughout the year.

(Adapted from Laṭā'if al-Ma'arif)

### Stay Steadfast After Ramadan

After a month of intense worship, we may experience 'post-Ramadhan blues' or a 'post-Ramadhan dip'.

Naturally, we cannot do the same amount of worship in Shawwal that we did in Ramadhan. However, we should maintain a strong desire to continue worshipping Allah and progressing in our journey to Him. A sign of our Ramadhan being accepted is that Allah ('azza wa jall) grants us tawfiq to continue worshipping Him. Thus, we should ensure that, even though Ramadhan has ended, our daily Qur'an recitation, dhikr, du'a', fasting, and night prayer does not end, even if it is little.

Our beloved Prophet (Peace be upon him) told us that that the most beloved

Continued to Page 16

## From the Holy Qur'an Ayah of the week

Theme: Zakah

"Zakah expenditures are only for the poor and for the needy and for those employed to collect [zakah] and for bringing hearts together [for Islam] and for freeing captives and for those in debt and for the cause of Allah and for the [stranded] traveler—an obligation [imposed] by Allah. And Allah is Knowing and Wise..."

Surah At-Tawbah (9:60)



## Carry the spirit of Ramadan throughout the year, Muslims advised

Muslims have been urged to uphold the virtues and spiritual gains attained during the holy month of Ramadan, not only for personal growth but also in pursuit of the pleasure of Allah.

Speaking during a pre-Khutbah address at the Jamia Mosque Nairobi on the last Friday of Ramadan, Abdullatif Essajee called on the faithful to internalise and sustain the lessons of the fasting period beyond the season.

Essajee emphasised that Islam is a way of life not limited to Ramadan, urging believers to consistently embody its principles throughout the year.

“It is essential to remind ourselves that Islam is not confined to Ramadan alone. The teachings of Islam encourage us to embody its principles and values every day of the year. Consistency in our faith and actions is key to fulfilling our purpose as Muslims and contributing positively to society,” he said.

He noted that true benefit from Ramadan is reflected in continued devotion and steadfastness even after the month ends.

“The steadfastness shown after Ramadan is the greatest indicator that one has truly benefited from the fast. The deeds of a Muslim do not come to an end with the completion of Ramadan; rather, they continue throughout the year,” he added.

Essajee expressed concern that some Muslims observe religious obligations more strictly during Ramadan but fall short afterwards. He cautioned against becoming “servants of Ramadan” instead of servants of Allah.

The Deputy Chairman of the Jamia Mosque Committee underscored the importance of extending acts of worship, charity, and kindness beyond the holy month, noting that the essence of Ramadan lies in translating its lessons into everyday conduct.

He further explained that one of the core objectives of fasting is to nurture righteous-



ness and strengthen one’s relationship with Allah.

“Fasting elevates a person from a material focus to a spiritual state, fostering selflessness and humility,” he said.

Essajee concluded by urging Muslims to maintain the purity, discipline, and moral restraint cultivated during Ramadan, stressing that consistency in faith is key to attaining success in both this life and the hereafter.

## Ruto urges religious leaders to join fight against drug abuse

President William Ruto has called on religious leaders to work alongside the government in tackling drug and substance abuse, warning that the vice poses a serious threat to the country’s future.

Speaking during a Ramadhan iftar dinner in Mombasa, the Head of State said the growing crisis cannot be addressed by government interventions alone, stressing the need for a collective response.

“We have a serious challenge of drug and alcohol abuse. It is destroying our children and the next generation of Kenyans. It cannot be handled by the state alone,” he said.

Ruto noted that substance abuse is undermining the wellbeing of young people, urging religious leaders to take an active role in safeguarding the country’s future.

“These are the issues affecting one of the most critical segments of our nation — the youth. Religious leaders must step in to ensure we do not lose an entire generation,” he added.

The President emphasised the importance of a holistic approach to youth development, combining law enforcement with moral and social guidance. He reiterated that while legal frameworks are necessary, they are insufficient without strong moral leadership from families and religious institutions.

“Jameni, we must protect our children from drug abuse and negative influences that threaten our families and society. Religious and community leaders must work together to guide, support, and pray for them,” he said.

Ruto also called on religious organisations to strengthen mentorship programmes aimed at shaping young people’s character and life choices.

“The mentorship and moral upbringing of our youth is a shared responsibility. Parents, religious leaders, and society at large must step up,” he said.

While acknowledging ongoing government efforts, the President stressed that sustainable progress will depend on reinforcing

moral values within communities.

Substance abuse among young people remains a growing concern in Kenya, with rising cases of alcohol and drug use reported among teenagers in both urban and rural areas.

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## ABSA Bank and KPA support vulnerable Muslim families during Ramadhan

ABSA Bank Kenya, through the Absa Kenya Foundation, carried out a food distribution exercise to support vulnerable families in Eldoret.

A total of 100 Muslim women facing economic challenges benefited from the donations, distributed during the just-concluded month of Ramadhan. The food items were handed over to the Eldoret-based non-governmental organization Al-Huda Foundation, led by Sheikh Abubakar Bini, which facilitated distribution to those in need.

Sheikh Bini, who also serves as the North Rift chairman of the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya (CIPK), expressed his gratitude to ABSA Bank Kenya for the generous support, which he said reflects the true spirit of compassion and generosity during the holy month.

"This support has become a consistent lifeline for vulnerable families," Sheikh Bini said, noting that this marks the fourth consecutive year the community has received Ramadhan food donations from the bank. He added that many families are currently struggling with economic hardships worsened by climate-related challenges affecting livelihoods across the country.

"Many Kenyans are facing difficult situations due to prolonged droughts in some regions and floods that have caused loss of lives and destruction of property," he said. Sheikh Bini emphasized that government efforts can be strengthened through support from private sector players and financial institutions like ABSA Bank Kenya, which assist vulnerable families in need.

During the distribution exercise, Julius Songok, Rift Valley regional manager at ABSA Bank Kenya, highlighted that the initiative is part of the bank's broader corporate social responsibility program through the Absa Kenya Foundation.

"As ABSA, we remain committed to supporting the communities where we operate, especially during significant moments such as Ramadhan. Through the Absa Kenya Foundation, we continue to extend assistance to vulnerable groups across the country," Songok said.

At the same time, Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) continues to support the Muslim community through its commitment to communal values and social initiatives.

Kenya Ports Authority has donated food supplies worth 3.35 million shillings to support vulnerable communities during the holy month of Ramadan.

The donation will benefit 25 community and faith-based organizations, drawn from the counties of Kwale, Lamu and Mombasa. The Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya, the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims and Kenya Muslim Women Alliance are among the organizations that benefitted from this donation



**Julius Songok, Rift Valley regional manager at ABSA Bank Kenya(LEFT) and Sheikh Abubakar Bini (CENTRE),North Rift chairman Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya(CIPK) handing over food donation to one of the Muslim women beneficiaries during Ramadhan relief initiative carried out in Eldoret sponsored by Absa Kenya foundation .**



**Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) Managing Director Captain William Ruto(LEFT) handing over a bale of flour to Coast Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims(SUPKEM) Regional Coordinator Khamis Juma Mwanguzo and women leader during official flagging off of the donation for distribution to various community-based organizations in Mombasa.**

which forms part of the Authority's Corporate Social Investment Program initiative. The Managing Director Capt. William Ruto who officially flagged off the donation for distribution to the various groups noted that the initiative demonstrates KPA's commitment to uplifting lives, strengthening community welfare, and standing in solidarity with those that require assistance. KPA has been distributing Iftar food sup-

plies to community-based organizations across the country for the past three years. KPA Managing Director, Captain William Ruto, said the values of generosity, empathy, and togetherness that define Ramadhan align with the authority's mission. "KPA remains dedicated to supporting social welfare programs that enhance community dignity and promote social unity," he stated.

## Grade 10 staffing: Principals warn of severe deficit in CBE subjects

Secondary school administrators have raised a red alert over a critical staffing shortage that threatens the successful implementation of the Grade 10 transition under the Competency-Based Education (CBE) framework.

Speaking through the Kenya Secondary Schools Heads Association (KESSHA), principals warned that just three months into the pioneer Senior School academic year, institutions are struggling to deliver specialized technical subjects due to a deficit of nearly 60,000 teachers. KESSHA Chairman Willy Kuria stated that while schools have successfully admitted over one million learners, the lack of personnel trained in the new curriculum's pathways is creating a functional vacuum. The shortage is most acute in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) pathway, which requires expertise in emerging fields such as avi-

ation, marine technology, electricity, and building construction. "The CBE framework has created a surge in demand for technical staff that simply does not exist in the current teacher labor market," Kuria noted. "I do not think there is a single school in the country that has a full complement of teachers for these new subjects." To manage the crisis, many school Boards of Management (BOM) have been forced to divert limited operational funds to hire private professionals and part-time tutors. However, administrators report that highly skilled experts in fields like financial management and engineering often demand salaries far exceeding the pay scales of public secondary schools. This financial strain is compounded by the fact that capitation grants from the state have remained stagnant despite the increased costs associated with practical, pathway-based learning. The Teachers Service Commission (TSC)

has acknowledged the "staggering" shortfall, which stands at approximately 58,590 teachers for Grade 10 alone. Acting TSC CEO Evaleen Mitei recently confirmed that the commission is exploring emergency partnerships with technical and vocational training (TVET) institutions to deploy their trainers to secondary schools as a stop-gap measure. Additionally, the TSC has announced a major policy shift for the 2026/2027 recruitment cycle, stating it will not hire any new primary school teachers, citing a surplus of 18,000 at that level to focus all available resources on filling the gaps in Senior Schools. As the government continues its "mop-up" exercise to ensure 100% transition, educators warn that without a decisive recruitment drive for specialists, the core promise of the CBE, to provide practical, career-oriented skills may remain unfulfilled for the majority of Kenyan students.

## Over 200 Orphans benefit from SOHA's Iftar Al-Saim programme in Isiolo

A total of 200 orphans from the WAMY Children's Home in Isiolo County enjoyed a special Iftar on Monday through the Iftar Al-Saim Programme, organized by the Star of Hope Association (SOHA).

The initiative was made possible by the generous support of Cinarlar Grup from Ankara, Türkiye, ensuring that orphans and other less fortunate members of society could break their fast with dignity and joy. SOHA, based in Isiolo, facilitated the outreach to bring smiles to the children's faces.

Speaking during the event, Qari Abdulrazzaq, Organizing Secretary of SOHA, lauded Cinarlar Grup for their donations, highlighting how the support reflects the true spirit of compassion and generosity during Ramadhan.

"Feeding those who are fasting and caring for orphans carries immense blessings in Islam," he said. He further urged Muslims across the country to support orphans and the needy, improving their livelihoods and nurturing a spirit of giving.

The programme is part of SOHA's broader Ramadhan outreach in Isiolo County. So far, the organization has successfully conducted 15 Iftar Al-Saim programmes in various mosques and institutions, reinforcing its commitment to serving vulnerable communities.

Over 2,900 fasting Muslims from across Isiolo have benefited from SOHA's mosque-to-mosque Iftar initiative this Ramadhan. Daily meals have been served at Masjid Umar Al-Farooq, Al-Falah Islamic Centre,

Kambi Otha, Masjid Abubakar Kambi Juu, Masjid Farooq Ola Bule, Masjid Tawfeeq Kambi Garba, Masjid Al-Naim, Moti Masjid, and Masjid Umar Al-Farooq Tuluroba.

A particularly heartwarming moment unfolded at Isiolo Girls High School, where 400 students shared in the 14th Iftar Al-Saim programme, experiencing the blessings of breaking their fast together.

Through these efforts, SOHA continues to embody and promote the values of mercy, unity, and generosity that Ramadhan inspires. The outreach, sponsored by Ali Rıza Dinç through Brother Zaffar and Cinarlar Grup from Ankara, Türkiye, exemplifies the spirit of compassion, generosity, and togetherness that defines the holy month.

## Parents raise concerns over violation of Muslim learners' rights at Likoni School

Complaints about the violation of Muslim children's rights in educational institutions continue to emerge from across the country. Despite a directive from the Ministry of Education prohibiting schools from compelling Muslim students to attend church services, such violations appear to be becoming the norm rather than the exception.

The latest reports come from Likoni Sub-County, where parents have accused church-sponsored Consolata Primary School of infringing on the religious rights of Muslim learners.

"We have noted this with great concern and hope that the Ministry of Education will take all necessary steps to ensure that Muslim learners are not pressured by teachers to attend church," parents said. According to the parents, their children

are often forced to attend church services, barred from wearing hijabs, and prevented from performing their obligatory Islamic prayers.

They emphasized that both the Education Act and the Constitution clearly guarantee freedom of religion, and that the school's actions constitute a violation of these principles.

In response to the concerns, Mombasa Women Representative Zamzam Mohammed visited Consolata Primary School on Monday. During her visit, she engaged the school administration and reminded them of the Ministry of Education circular dated 4th March 2022, which states that no learner should be discriminated against, punished, or denied admission because of their religion.

The directive also affirms the right of learn-

ers to practice their faith freely and wear religious attire in line with their beliefs.

She underscored that the Constitution of Kenya and the Basic Education Act guarantee freedom of religion and protection from discrimination in all learning institutions.

"What the school principals and headteachers are doing is grossly wrong. No child should be denied the right to practice their religious obligations or be forced to attend church services. This is discrimination, and as Muslim leaders, we will not remain silent," she said.

Zamzam reiterated that schools must remain safe, respectful, and inclusive environments where every learner feels protected and valued, regardless of their background or beliefs.

## KNCHR launches compensation framework for protest victims, sets April 3 deadline

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) has officially commenced the development of a national reparations framework, establishing a firm deadline of April 3, 2026, for victims of human rights violations to submit their claims for verification.

This critical administrative action follows a formal Presidential Proclamation issued on March 6, which directed the Commission to formulate a structured and transparent compensation mechanism within a sixty-day window.

The initiative is primarily designed to address the grievances of individuals who suffered physical injuries, psychological trauma, or economic loss during the public protests of 2024 and 2025, while also incorporating unresolved cases dating back to the 2017 post-election period. With a government-allocated fund of KSh 2 billion set for disbursement starting in June 2026, the Commission has emphasized that the current verification phase is the only authorized avenue for individuals seeking financial or rehabilitative redress for state-related violations.

To ensure the integrity of the reparations process and meet the rigorous report-

ing standards mandated by the State, the KNCHR requires all claimants to provide verifiable evidentiary support alongside their applications.

Essential documentation includes P3 forms, detailed medical treatment records from recognized health facilities, police Occurrence Book (OB) excerpts, and post-mortem reports where applicable for families of the deceased. KNCHR Chairperson Claris Ogangah stated that while the Commission is fully committed to securing justice for survivors, the window for administrative processing is intentionally narrow to facilitate a prompt payout schedule.

The proposed framework is intended to go beyond simple one-time fiscal payments; it is structured to incorporate provisions for long-term medical support, specialized psychosocial counseling for affected families, and formal institutional acknowledgments of the specific violations that occurred during the periods of unrest.

The Commission has issued a stern warning that the April 3 cutoff is a fixed administrative boundary required to finalize the reparations register for the current fiscal year.

Victims, their legal representatives, and next-of-kin are urged to submit their details through the official toll-free line at 0800 720 627, the SMS shortcode 22359, or via the dedicated email address at reparations@knchr.org.

Physical submissions are also being accepted at the KNCHR headquarters located at CVS Plaza on Lenana Road, Nairobi, as well as across all regional offices, including those in Mombasa, Kisumu, and Kitale.

Failure to register claims and provide the necessary supporting documentation within this timeframe may result in exclusion from the initial phase of the 2026 compensation rollout.

As the verification process continues, the KNCHR remains the primary statutory body responsible for ensuring that the distribution of the KSh 2 billion fund is handled with the highest level of transparency, legal precision, and accountability to the public.

This process represents a significant step in the state's commitment to addressing historical injustices and providing a clear path to recovery for those impacted by civil and political unrest.

## 1,500 vulnerable families receive Eid food donations

About 1,500 vulnerable Muslim families in Mombasa County have received food packages from the Mombasa Somali Community Association to support them during the Eid celebrations.

The food distribution exercise took place at Mbaraki Grounds in Mvita Sub-County, where hundreds of beneficiary families gathered to collect essential supplies aimed at easing the financial strain on fasting households amid the high cost of living.

Speaking during the event, Mombasa Somali Community Association Treasurer Ibrahim Mohamed said the initiative targets vulnerable families across Mombasa County and is intended to help them sustain themselves for the remainder of Ramadan.

"Our target is to reach 1,500 families. This will take them through and also help them celebrate Eid," Mohamed said. He thanked sponsors for their contributions, which made the exercise possible.

"We are thankful for our sponsors who supported this food donation. I would like to thank KCB Bank for its contribution. We also received support from Absa Bank and Takaful Insurance," Mohamed added.

Mohamed noted that the association hopes to attract more sponsors in future to expand the programme and assist additional needy families in the county.

Secretary General of the Mombasa Somali Community Association Abdii Diiriye thanked well-wishers for supporting the effort to assist less fortunate Muslim families. Each beneficiary received a comprehensive food package containing five kilograms of rice, four kilograms of maize flour, six kilograms of wheat flour, two litres of edible cooking oil, two kilograms of dry beans, salt, tea leaves and three kilograms of sugar. "The supplies are expected to sustain families for the remaining days of Ramadan," Diiriye said.

He explained that this marks the second edition of the association's annual Ramadan food distribution initiative, with plans underway to scale it up next year.

"This is the second edition of our food donation and distribution.

Next year we plan to increase the number of beneficiaries from 1,500

to at least 3,000 vulnerable families," Diiriye said.

Association member and businessman Ibrahim Dube said the drive reflects the spirit of charity emphasised during Ramadan.

are in need by donating food," Dube said. He credited donor support for strengthening the initiative and helping struggling families. Dube urged Muslims across the country to organise similar charitable efforts in their communities.

The organisers wished the Muslim community a blessed and peaceful Eid celebrations.

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## Nassir calls for infrastructure to address Coast marginalisation

Mombasa Governor Abdullswamad Sheriff Nassir has said the newly established National Infrastructure Fund could play a pivotal role in correcting decades of marginalisation in the Coast region through targeted investment in key development projects.

Speaking at the Malindi Islamic Centre for Orphans annual fundraiser in Malindi, Governor Nassir emphasized that the fund should prioritise historically underserved regions by financing critical infrastructure, including airports, roads, and educational institutions.

"Improving infrastructure will unlock the Coast's economic potential, particularly in tourism and trade," Nassir said. "If Malindi Airport and Mombasa Airport are upgraded, tourism will increase and our economy will grow."

The governor also called for investment in major road networks connecting the Coast to other parts of the country, noting that improved connectivity would

strengthen the region's role in national and international commerce. However, Nassir stressed that the Coast's development challenges did not begin recently. He traced the disparities back to policies adopted shortly after independence, particularly Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965, which guided Kenya's early economic development strategy.

"The marginalisation of our region did not start yesterday or the day before. It began in 1965 when Sessional Paper Number 10 was passed," Nassir explained. He said the policy prioritised government investment in areas with larger populations and stronger agricultural productivity, leaving the Coast under-resourced.

Some Coast leaders, including independence-era politician Ronald Ngala, opposed the policy, warning it would lead to unequal development across the country.

"Leaders from this region understood the impact it would have and they opposed it because they knew it would leave plac-

es like the Coast behind," Nassir noted. These historical grievances later fuelled calls for regional governance structures that would allow communities to manage their own development.

"The essence of majimbo was that what comes from a region should benefit the people of that region," he said.

While some proponents of regional governance did not live to see it realised, Nassir highlighted that the introduction of devolution under the 2010 Constitution marked a major step toward addressing historical inequalities.

"With devolution today, we have an opportunity to ensure our people receive their fair share of development," he said, urging continued advocacy for infrastructure investment and economic growth.

"Kenya's politics must now move toward economic liberation for our people, and for the Coast that begins with infrastructure that unlocks our port, tourism, and trade potential," Nassir concluded.

## Garbatulla High School set for major upgrade into Tertiary Training Centre

Garbatulla High School in Isiolo County is set for a major upgrade, with plans underway to upgrade the institution into a tertiary-level training centre—an initiative that could position it among the largest institutions in the ASAL region, which has long lacked a major technical training facility. The Ministry of Interior and National Administration, through Deputy County Commissioner Charles Wandimi, has invited residents, alumni, and other stakeholders to participate in a public forum to deliberate on the proposal.

The public participation exercise is scheduled for 9 April 2026 at the Garbatulla DCC office. Following consultations,

the project is expected to introduce modern facilities, specialised courses, and expanded opportunities for students across Isiolo County and the wider northern region.

Once a prestigious national school in the 1980s, Garbatulla High School was renowned for academic excellence and leadership development, producing several notable leaders. However, in recent years, the institution has faced declining enrolment and deteriorating infrastructure.

Despite these challenges, its legacy remains deeply rooted among alumni and the local community, many of whom recall its era of exceptional performance and prestige. There is growing optimism that the



proposed transformation will restore the school's status—elevating it into a regional hub for skills development, innovation, and leadership.

Members of the public wishing to submit views or written memoranda can do so via [deogarbatulla@gmail.com](mailto:deogarbatulla@gmail.com).

## Jamia annual Islamic Book fair attracts knowledge seekers



A section of Muslim congregants going through some Islamic books on general knowledge at the Jamia Multi-purpose hall. The book exhibition fair which is held every month of Ramadhan was started in 2009 by Jamia Mosque Committee in collaboration with Darul Ulumudin to cultivate the reading culture among Muslims.

## Sheikh Khalifa School embarks on ultra-modern library project

Mombasa-based Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Secondary School has launched an ambitious project to create an ultra-modern library aimed at fostering a vibrant reading culture and enhancing student learning outcomes.

According to Zayyad Said, chairman of the Sheikh Khalifa Alumni Association (SKAA), the project seeks to transform the school's library into a spacious, solar-powered "knowledge hub" equipped with updated books and modern learning facilities.

"This initiative underpins SKAA's strategic objective to make reading and learning more accessible and convenient for students by providing a fully integrated and comfortable facility," Zayyad said.

The Ksh 21 million project will be implemented in three phases, with the first phase targeting between Ksh 6 million and Ksh 8 million through contributions from over 10,000 alumni.

To kickstart fundraising, SKAA hosted its inaugural Iftar fundraiser at Waterfront Banquet Hall. Supporters pledged significant contributions: Mama Haki Foundation donated 100 bags of cement, Hermosa Paints offered Ksh 50,000 worth of paint, and Bamburi Cement under AMSONS Group committed additional cement for construction.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, Principal Secretary in the State Department for Science, Research and Innovation, urged educational institutions in the Coast region to strengthen alumni networks to promote mentorship, institutional support, and community engagement.

"In today's world, it's not just about what you know but who you know. Alumni net-



**Principal Secretary (PS) in the State Department for Science, Research and Innovation, Prof. Shaukat Abdulrazak, addressing the media during fundraising event organised by Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Secondary School Alumni Association last week to support the construction of ultra-modern library at the Mombasa-based Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan Secondary School.**

works are key to fostering these connections and giving back to society," he said.

Prof. Abdulrazak also highlighted the school's academic achievements, noting its 100% university transition rate last year, including 17 straight A's and 35 A- grades.

"These results set an example for other schools. We want education to take the front seat in the Coast region, and Sheikh Khalifa is leading the way," he stated.

He further emphasized the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in building a skilled workforce essential for national development.

The fundraising event was attended by prominent figures, including Nominated

Senator Miraji Abdillahi, Mombasa County Commissioner Mohamed Nur, Prof. Othman Mujahid, Dr. Faiz Mohamed Shee, a Pwani University lecturer and board member of SKAA, and Principal Sheikh Rishad Rajab Ramadhan, who is also the Organizing secretary of the Sheikh Khalifa Alumni Association (SKAA), among others.

Prof. Abdulrazak concluded with an appeal to alumni and the wider community: "This is just the beginning. We encourage all alumni to continue contributing to these worthy initiatives that will transform the learning environment for our students."

## Alarm as Eastleigh Businessman Abducted

A cloud of anxiety has gripped Nairobi's Eastleigh area following the reported abduction of prominent businessman Abdi Aidid, with the local business community calling for immediate government intervention.

Abdi, a well-known entrepreneur who owns several establishments including Atis Suites in Eastleigh and Parklands, was allegedly seized on the evening of Saturday, March 7, shortly after breaking his fast.

According to his family, the incident occurred at around 8:00 pm near the junction of Shauri Moyo and Mohamed Yusuf Haji Avenue. Witnesses said the attackers were armed and dressed in jungle-green uniforms, raising concerns over their identity. Since then, his whereabouts remain unknown.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the Eastleigh Business Community described the incident as deeply troubling, urging authorities to act swiftly to locate

the missing businessman and secure his safe release.

"The disappearance of one of our members under such troubling circumstances has created deep anxiety within the community," the statement read.

The group said the abduction has not only devastated Abdi's family but also shaken confidence among traders and residents in the bustling commercial hub.

"His family has been left in a state of profound fear and anguish, enduring unimaginable emotional distress as they await any information about their loved one," the statement added.

Eastleigh, a key economic centre hosting thousands of traders and workers, relies heavily on a stable and secure environment. The community warned that such incidents risk undermining both safety and business confidence in the area.

They called on the government and security agencies to deploy all available resources to investigate the matter, establish Abdi's

whereabouts and ensure accountability.

"The safety, dignity and protection of every citizen must remain a fundamental responsibility of the state," the statement said.

The abduction has also sparked legal action, with the businessman's family moving to court over what they describe as an unlawful seizure.

Through lawyer Mwaura Wakabata, the family filed a petition alleging that Abdi was forcibly removed from his vehicle by masked men believed to be security officers. The petition terms the incident a violation of his constitutional rights to life, liberty and dignity.

Court documents indicate that more than 48 hours passed without any disclosure of his whereabouts, and that he was neither booked at any police station nor presented before a court. The family is now seeking urgent orders compelling authorities to produce him before the High Court at Milimani and reveal his location.

## Post-Ramadan: The journey continues

### Continued From Page 9

deeds to Allah are those which are constant, even if they are a few (Muslim).

We sometimes surprise ourselves how much self-restraint we are capable of in Ramadhan (only by the grace of the Almighty). We should try to bring a percentage of this self-discipline over to post-Ramadhan.

Don't let a day go by without reciting Qur'an. Add an additional sunnah/nafl prayer to your routine which you previously did not use to perform prior to Ramadhan. Set yourself realistic expectations. There may be days or even some weeks where you experience a dip, but keep going.

Don't give up and ask Allah to help you. Don't be paralysed by an 'all-or-nothing' attitude. Each time you do good, thank Him. Realise that none of it is because of you. It is only because He allowed you to do it.

### Stay Away from Sins

One of the major goals of Ramadhan was taqwa. Fasting should have trained us to control our nafs and stay away from sins. Yahya b. Mu'adh (rahimahullah) said, "Whoever seeks forgiveness with his tongue but his heart is still insistent upon sin, and his intention is to return back to the sin after Ramadhan, then his fasting has been rejected and the door of acceptance has been closed in his face." Even if our additional voluntary deeds sometimes slip, we should not compromise on two

things:

(1) the obligatory deeds

(2) staying away from sins. And if we do commit sins, we should be quick to repent. We should identify specific sins and beg Allah to protect us from them. E.g. O Allah, just as you protected my tongue from backbiting in Ramadhan, protect me from it throughout the year. O Allah, just as you protected me from watching haram in Ramadhan, protect me from it throughout the year. "O the one who completed Ramadhan in the best manner! Don't change thereafter in Shawwal!" – Ibn al-Jawzi (rahimahullah)

### The Journey Continues

Our journey to Allah does not end with Ramadhan. Our journey of knowing Him, of tasting the sweetness of worshipping Him, of living a life of 'ubudiyah (servitude) does not end with Ramadhan.

It was said to Bishr al-Hafi (rahimahullah), "There are some people who strive hard in Ramadhan but when it ends, they stop." He replied, "How evil are these people! They only know the rights of Allah in Ramadhan. Indeed, the pious person is the one who worships and strives hard throughout the entire year." As we journey on the Straight Path to Allah (subhanahu wa ta'ala), we should always ask Him for istiqamah (steadfastness and staying firm).

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) was asked, "Advise me with something that I could hold on to". He (Peace be upon him) replied, "Say, 'My Lord is Allah', then

remain steadfast on it" (Tirmidhi). The Prophet (Peace be upon him) also said, "Abdullah! Do not be like so-and-so! He used to pray at night, and he then stopped the night prayer" (Bukhari).

To stay firm, we should continuously seek knowledge (even if it is one class a week), and keep good company. We should fill our schedules with various good deeds, so that Shaytan does not lead us to veer off the Straight Path.

Every minute in our journey to Allah is extremely precious.

"O son of Adam! You are nothing but a number of days: and whenever a day passes, a part of you passes away." – Hasan al-Basri (rahimahullah)

Istiqamah on the journey to Allah is attained through rectifying and nourishing the heart. Ibn Rajab (rahimahullah) writes, "The foundation of istiqamah is the istiqamah of the heart upon tawhid (the Oneness of Allah)... When the heart becomes steadfast on the ma'rifah (knowledge) of Allah, being in awe of Him, honouring Him, loving Him, seeking Him, hoping in Him, supplicating to Him, relying on Him and turning away from other than Him — then all the limbs and body parts will become steadfast on obeying Him. For the heart is the king of the limbs, and the limbs are its troops.

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