

THE FRIDAY BULLETIN

The Weekly Muslim Update



A Publication of the Jama Mosque Nairobi

Kadhi's Courts can rule on custody, maintenance, High Court affirms

The High Court has once again affirmed that Kadhi's Courts have jurisdiction to determine child custody and maintenance matters involving Muslim litigants, ruling that such issues are incidental to marriage and divorce under Islamic law.

In a judgment delivered in Voi, the court emphasized that disputes relating to custody and maintenance fall squarely within the mandate of Kadhi's Courts when they arise in the context of Muslim personal law. The ruling settles lingering uncertainty stemming from previous decisions that had questioned the extent of the courts' authority.

The judge noted that referring such matters to Children's Courts or other forums would fragment the justice system and undermine constitutional guarantees on access to justice. "Custody and maintenance are integral to personal status and cannot be artificially severed from marriage and divorce," the court ruled.

The decision arose from a case in which a woman identified as FAA challenged a Kadhi's Court ruling that granted joint custody of her six children with her former husband, identified as BAM, following their divorce.

In her application before the High Court, FAA argued that under Article 170(5) of the Constitution and the Kadhi's Courts Act, the jurisdiction of Kadhi's Courts is limited to matters of Muslim personal law relating to marriage, divorce, and inheritance, and does not extend to child custody and maintenance.

She contended that by determining the issues, the Kadhi's Court had overstepped its mandate and encroached on the jurisdiction of the Children's Court as provided under the Children Act.

However, BAM opposed the application, maintaining that the Kadhi's Court acted within its legal mandate, as custody and

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Brick challenge success drives Masjid Al-Ameen expansion project forward



LEFT: Masjid Al-Ameen CEO Ali Khalid; Committee Member Abubakar Bajaber; Sheikh Ibrahim Mohammed, Imam Masjid Salaam; and Parklands Mosque Imam Sheikh AbduRahman Ishaq present a dummy cheque from the now-closed Brick Challenge initiative, launched during Ramadan, to support the mosque's expansion and trust property building on Thursday at the construction site next to the mosque.

The initiative collected over KSh 7.7 million, surpassing its target of KSh 5 million. CEO Ali Khalid, while appreciating all well-wishers who participated in the challenge, revealed that the bricks required for the entire project are now fully covered, a testament to the power of collective resource pooling by the Muslim community. However he also called for continued support for additional materials as construction is still ongoing.

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Kadhi's Courts launch outreach to boost access

The Kadhi's Courts carried out a comprehensive outreach program on Tuesday aimed at raising public awareness of their role in handling Islamic law matters, including marriage, divorce, and inheritance.

The initiative, led by Acting Chief Kadhi Sukyan Hassan, brought together Kadhis from across Isiolo County to engage communities and promote access to justice. The team visited Isiolo Town, Garbatula, Modogashe, and Gubata (Sericho), sensitizing residents on the mandate and services at the Kadhi's Courts. During the sessions, participants were educated on legal rights and procedures, including e-filing systems, virtual hearings, and the use of Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) such as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and mediation.

The program emphasized that integrating ADR mechanisms offers faster, cost-effective, and amicable solutions compared to conventional litigation.

Speaking at the event, Sheikh Sukyan underscored that Kadhi's Courts are an integral part of the judiciary, designed to bring justice closer to the people. He encouraged Muslims to utilize the courts for arbitration and family dispute resolution in accordance with Islamic principles.

Sheikh Sukyan also called on couples to register their marriages promptly, pledging that the courts will continue to serve Muslims diligently across the country.

Call for collaboration dominates MESWEP education day

Calls for collaboration between stakeholders dominated recent Muslim Education Secretariat for Western Province (MESWEP) education events, emphasizing that improving performance requires joint efforts from teachers, parents, and government.

Key discussions highlighted the need for improved infrastructure, teacher support, and community involvement to boost academic standards.

Speakers at the annual event under the theme: "Empowering Muslim Schools for Academic Excellence and Community Transformation," stressed that the future of education depends on "whole-of-society" involvement, bringing together schools, families, and partners to ensure quality.

The speakers further called for better working conditions and renewed investment to address emerging challenges in the Competency-Based Education (CBE). Addressing the gathering at the event held at Bungoma Muslim Centre (BMC) Bungoma Deputy Governor Janepher Chemtai Mbatiany called on education stakeholders, including teachers, parents, students and partners to strengthen collaboration and increase investment in inclusive, quality learning to close widening education gaps. The DG challenged Muslims in the region to mobilize their resources and invest in the education sector so as to contribute to the improvement of academic standards in the Muslim community. She stressed the importance of providing a conducive learning environment adding that it was imperative for Muslims and leaders to join hands in uplifting the academic standards in their schools through the provision of the needed support and improve on existing infrastructures.

Mbatiany praised Muslim sponsored schools in Western region for their remarkable academic performance, highlighting the importance of collaboration among all stakeholders in ensuring quality education. The Deputy Governor also lauded the school's leadership, particularly the Principals and the school management boards, for their dedication and hard work that led to the impressive results by Muslim Schools. She commended MESWEP for promoting Islamic religious education and Arabic studies alongside the national curriculum and reaffirmed the county government's commitment, under H.E. Governor Kenneth Lusaka, to support inclusive education and improve learning infrastructure.

On her part, Nominated Senator Consolata Wakwabubi encouraged students to work hard in their studies to excel in their academic spheres. "I wish to encourage you students to work smart and you will achieve your dream and also excel your academic journey," she said.

In her remarks, Caren Nato Wanyonyi, director special programmes at county government of Bungoma said education is the key primary empowerment and an equalizer. She urged students take education seriously and protect themselves against immoralities.

Others who spoke at the event were Dr Hassan Ngeri and MESWEP Vice-chairman Athman Wangara among others. This flagship event is the only annual education forum in Kenya exclusively dedicated to Muslim-sponsored schools, providing a unique platform to celebrate achievement, inspire learners, recognize outstanding teachers, and promote Islamic Religious Education (IRE) and Arabic studies as integral components of holistic education.

MESWEP works with all Muslim education institutions from pre-primary, Primary, Secondary and post-secondary education institutions including madrassas. MESWEP is affiliated to and works closely with Muslim Education Council (MEC) as outlined in Article 53 of the Constitution of Kenya (the Basic Education Act).

High Court reaffirms Kadhi's Courts' jurisdiction in child custody

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maintenance are incidental to marriage under Islamic law. In dismissing the challenge, the High Court aligned itself with a growing body of jurisprudence affirming the jurisdiction of Kadhi's Courts in such matters.

The court cited previous rulings, including a 2024 decision in Meru in Civil Appeal E009 of 2024, where it was held that custody and maintenance of children are incidental to marriage and divorce and therefore fall within the jurisdiction of the Kadhi's Court.

It also referenced the 2010 case of Najma Ali Ahmed vs Swaleh Rubea, in which the High Court ruled that child maintenance is tied to marriage and thus falls under the purview of Kadhi's Courts, which handle matters of personal law for Muslims. Further reliance was placed on the 2020 decision in ZUDG v SJKUR, where the High Court held that the Children Act does not oust the jurisdiction of Kadhi's Courts in handling children's matters. The court noted that Kadhis, like magistrates, are empowered to hear such cases, particularly where they are connected to disputes already before them, provided they apply the best interests of the child principle.

Commenting on the ruling, Mohamud Salim Omar, Chairperson of the Association of Muslim Lawyers, said the decision was both timely and firmly grounded in the Constitution. "Article 170(5) of the Constitution clearly vests the Kadhi's Courts with the powers to determine questions of Muslim law relating to personal status, marriage, divorce and inheritance," he said.

He added that it is legally sound and jurisprudentially consistent for courts to affirm that issues of child custody and maintenance fall within the Kadhi's Courts' jurisdiction, noting that such matters are intrinsically connected to marriage and divorce.

Despite the consistent line of decisions, courts have continued to receive challenges from dissatisfied litigants seeking to limit the scope of Kadhi's Courts. The latest ruling is expected to provide further clarity and reinforce the role of Kadhi's Courts in adjudicating family disputes within the framework of Islamic law, while upholding constitutional safeguards.

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The descent of Jesus (Isa ibn Maryam, peace be upon him)

By Sheikh Jamaludin Osman

Introduction

In Islam, the Second Coming of Jesus (Prophet Isa ibn Maryam), peace be upon him, stands as a central tenet of the end times, marking one of the most significant major signs of the Day of Judgment. Muslims believe that Jesus (Prophet 'Īsā ibn Maryam), peace be upon him, will return not only as a Prophet of God but also as a just and righteous ruler who will defeat the Dajjal (the False Messiah), restore justice, and unify humanity under Islam. This article explores the descent of Prophet 'Īsā ibn Maryam (peace be upon him) at the end of time, drawing on the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah (authentic Prophetic traditions) to examine this profound and widely discussed aspect of Islamic belief.

1. The Ascension of Jesus ('Īsā, peace be upon him)

Allah clarifies that the Jews neither killed nor crucified Jesus, but that Allah raised him to Himself: "They did not kill him, nor did they crucify him, but it was made to appear so to them. Those who differ about it are in doubt. They have no knowledge except following assumption, and they did not kill him for certain. Rather, Allah raised him to Himself." [Surah An-Nisā' 4:157-158]

2. His Descent (Coming Down to Earth) is one of the Major Signs of the Day of Judgment.

Allah says:

"And indeed, he (Jesus) is a sign of the Hour." [Surah Az-Zukhruf 43:61]

And Allah also says:

"There is none from the People of the Book except that he will believe in him before his death." [An-Nisā' 4:159]

3. Description of Jesus at His Descent

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said: "There is no prophet between me and Jesus, and he will certainly descend. So when you see him, recognize him: a man of medium height, with a reddish-white complexion, wearing two light garments, and his hair will appear as if water is dripping from it even though it is not wet." (Abu Dawud)

4. His Arrival and the Prayer Behind the Imam

Jesus will descend during a time when the Muslims are preparing for battle against the Dajjal, and their leader will offer him the leadership in prayer, but he will refuse out of humility.

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said: "What will you do when the son of Mary descends among you and your leader is from among you?" (Bukhari & Muslim) And also The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said:

Translation: "A group of my قَوْمًا will continue fighting for the truth, victorious until the Day of Judgment. Then Jesus son of

Mary will descend, and their leader will say: 'Come and lead us in prayer,' but he will say: 'No, some of you are leaders over others, as an honor from Allah to this nation.'" (Muslim)

5. How Jesus will Rule

Jesus (peace be upon him) will rule by the Sharia of Islam and not bring a new law. He will follow the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and judge by the Qur'an.

Scholars explained that his descent does not contradict the saying of the Prophet (Peace be upon him) said: "There is no prophet after me."

Because Jesus will not come as a new prophet with a new revelation, but as a follower of Muhammad (Peace be upon him) implementing Islamic law.

6. Killing the Dajjal

The first major act of Jesus will be killing the Dajjal.

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said: "When the Dajjal sees him, he will melt like salt dissolves in water."

He will then pursue and kill him, ending his great deception.

7. Gog and Magog (Ya'jooj and Ma'jooj)

Gog and Magog will appear during his time and spread corruption. Jesus will supplicate to Allah, and Allah will destroy them completely.

8. Justice, Abundance, and the Abolition of False Religions

The Prophet (Peace be upon him) said: "By Him in Whose hand is my soul, the son

of Mary will soon descend among you as a just ruler. He will break the cross, kill the pig, and abolish the jizyah..." (Bukhari & Muslim)

This signifies the establishment of truth, the end of distorted religions, and the dominance of Islam.

9. General Prosperity in His Time

A time of great peace and abundance will follow:

"Wealth will become so abundant that



no one will accept it."

People will live in unprecedented peace, justice, and prosperity.

10. Duration of His Stay and Death

Jesus will remain on earth for forty years, then die, and the Muslims will perform the funeral prayer for him. He will also perform Hajj.

Conclusion

The descent of Jesus (peace be upon him) is a firmly established belief in Islam, supported by the Qur'an and authentic mutawatir hadiths.

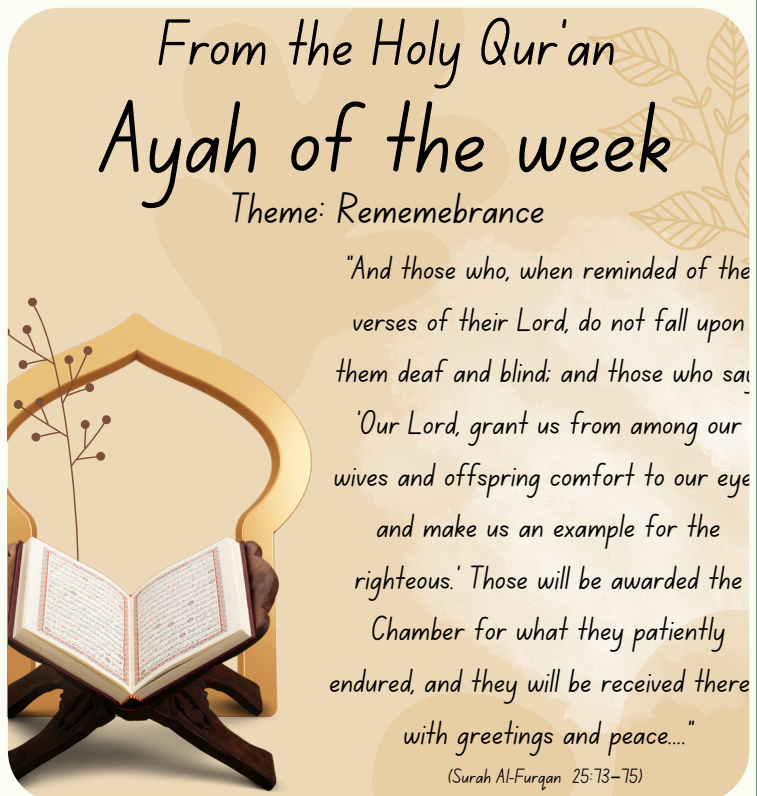
It represents the triumph of truth over falsehood, the defeat of the Dajjal, and the final establishment of justice and peace under Islam before the end of the world.

From the Holy Qur'an Ayah of the week

Theme: Remembrance

"And those who, when reminded of the verses of their Lord, do not fall upon them deaf and blind; and those who say 'Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous.' Those will be awarded the Chamber for what they patiently endured, and they will be received there with greetings and peace..."

(Surah Al-Furqan 25:73-75)



Mom for the first time – reflections of a Mother

By Salma El-Gazzar

Lying on the beach, taking a sunbath, and enjoying the view of the turquoise sea and the clear blue sky, I lay relaxed as the breeze moved through my lounge while I read a romantic novel. Suddenly, I hear yelling and screaming. I get out of bed at 3:00 am and reach out to my crying baby. I realized that it was no more than a fancy dream. After an extremely exhausting day, I was yearning for a long nap at night, but having an infant means having no sleep for at least three months or, more specifically, being at the mercy of His or Her Majesty.

Sometimes, I have the urge to scream, saying, "Oh my God!! I'm really tired. I'm too young for all these strains. Please, little baby, let me sleep for one hour. Just one hour!"

A Long-Awaited Arrival

Mothers spend the whole nine months captured by the miracle occurring inside their wombs and eager to take this little creature in their arms.

For nine months, my husband and I were waiting for the miracle to come true, enjoying the puzzlement of choosing the best name, guessing whether the baby would be a girl or a boy, and imagining what the baby would look like.

We were anxious to see the third family member, but what amazing confusion! Prior to the delivery, millions of feelings were passing through my mind: fear, love, anticipation, worry, and so on. But right after giving birth, I started to regain consciousness.

I can't deny that it was really painful, but it's time to start paying the price of motherhood. There were many voices around me, but all I heard was bla bla bla. I was able to figure out only one statement, saying, "Oh! Masha Allah! You've got a gorgeous baby girl. Would you like to see her?"

"Yes, please!" I nodded tiredly.

At that moment, I felt as if the universe had stopped spinning and the party around me had entirely vanished, and for a blink, I was hugging my baby.

I was in floods of tears — I didn't know exactly why, but it was as if the whole emotions in the universe had overtaken my heart.

It was a deep and pure feeling of love, one that I've never experienced.

I kept wondering and asking this tiny angel in my arms:

"Who're you? Are you this one, who was kicking up heels inside me? Oh! Thank God, you're awesome, honey."

During this joy, some thoughts mingled with this love: "Am I now a mature woman and no longer this freckle-faced kid whose biggest problem was how to get the homework done?"

I cuddled my little kitten and nursed her.

In a jiffy, the issues of bonding were handled, and a knot of fondness and love was magically created.

She wasn't only suckling on milk but on love, joy, and tenderness. A mysterious punch of emotions was flowing passionately between us. Now, my other half is not only my husband; we are now divided into three.

She's all ours, and we are all she has and needs. I have to confess that the new responsibility of motherhood was worrying me during pregnancy, but I discovered that new moms won't find a single moment to be worried. They're busy 24/7, always having tons of home chores to be done while fulfilling the needs of the new guest.

Changing the diapers, nursing my girl, laundering her outfits — these are samples of the new household activities that should be done along with the old ones, and each of them is repeated at least once an hour. Besides, for an ordinary person, taking a shower and falling asleep is the perfect end to such an exhausting day.

But hold on, dear mom: You're no longer an ordinary person. You're a superwoman, and you'll find out that having a shower is "pie in the sky," and sleeping at night is out of the question. However, don't panic; by that time you'll get used to all this stuff, and the superpowers inside of you will break through.

Hardships to Overcome

Although motherhood is an awesome stage, a few hardships will stand in the way of this awesomeness.

Aside from the usual pains after giving birth, breastfeeding was the first hardship I faced, but with a little patience, all the pains were evaded, and it became a time of great joy for both of us.

Mind that your body is working 24 hours a day to be at the baby's disposal, so don't ever think of diet or weight loss.

My pediatrician advised me to follow my hunger, have well-balanced meals, and take in lots of fluids to keep me hydrated.

Nursing your infant naturally will strengthen the bonds between you both and ensure a far better immunity for him or her in the future.

Moreover, Allah (the Most High, the Most Gracious) urges mothers to breastfeed their infants for two years.

They are wonderful gifts that deserves all the pains and exerted efforts.

As for me, lack of sleep was the hardest part of all. Two hours of sleep for a newborn is an extremely long period, but for an adult, it is nearly a short nap. But cool it!

A few weeks further, you'll be acquainted with your baby's short naps, and later on, the baby will adopt a long-nap pattern.

Baby blues is a very common syndrome a few days after childbirth.

Exhaustion, new responsibility, and postpartum fatigue made me a bit blue, but a glance at my angel's eyes would wipe all these concerns away.

Regarding my previous priorities, career life used to be the first for me. Now, for my husband and me, proudly raising our little princess is the most important of our goals.

As a working mother, I didn't think of leaving my job or my career, but I tried to map out the best way to work without affecting my baby's needs.

Regulating nursing times, using the pump, and leaving the baby with parents or a trusted babysitter are suitable solutions for a working mom.

However, only now I highly appreciated both mothers: those who could bring their jobs into harmony with their kids and homes and those who left their jobs and preferred to stay at home to raise their kids.

Light of Knowledge Quiz

Number of hadiths contained in Al-Arba'in An-Nawawiyah

A 42

B 48

C 36

Answer to be revealed in the next issue

Last week's answer was choice A: "Equals fasting the whole year"

Be positive: Having a good opinion leads to contentment

By Luqman Nieto

Nasr ad-Din Juha was a simple man who lived in a small village. He was a shoemaker and rather a good one. He was not very knowledgeable, nor very rich or very strong or handsome. He was a simple man. But he was a joyful and content man, always with a smile.

Juha grew old and did not have children. His wife passed away long before him and he never got married again. He had no siblings or relatives. Until his last day, he used to wake up at dawn every day and go to the mosque to pray Fajr. From there he would go to his workshop where he would work diligently all day.

When he was getting old, a young man came to him. He wanted to learn Juha's trade, help him and inherit his workshop. Juha accepted. His name was Abdullah.

One day Abdullah asked Juha: "How come you are so joyful and content when you have no family, wife or children. When God has not given you knowledge or wealth. When you are not known for anything other than being a good shoemaker and a kind person?"

Juha smiled and answered: "Perhaps God did not give me wealth because I would have been mean and it would have corrupted me. Perhaps He did not give me a lot of knowledge because it would have made me proud and arrogant. Perhaps He did not give me children because I would not have been a good parent and I would have raised them to be unjust.

As for my wife, I loved her very much, but she loved God more. How can I argue with that? She only went ahead of me and I expect to join them both soon.

But God gave me two hands and has taught me to make shoes so I did not have to beg, and I could give a little charity to make up for my errors. And He has given me a long life so I could worship him. How can I not be thankful and content?"

The reason for Juha's joy and contentment

What made Juha a thankful and content man? His good opinion of Allah and of creation. Having a good opinion is to look for the good and expect goodness. The Prophet, peace be upon him said:

Verily, thinking well about Allah is a part of the excellent worship of Allah. (Sunan al-Tirmidhi)

He also said:

Allah says: If he thinks good of Me, he will have it. And if he thinks evil of Me, he will have it.

(Musnad Ahmad)

How our opinions help us interpret the world

We understand ourselves and the world based on our knowledge and experiences. This creates our opinions, what we think of something. Based on that, we interpret what happens to us.

We are constantly receiving stimuli. A stimulus is any piece of information that we perceive with our senses and through our nervous system reaches our brain. When this electric impulse that we call stimulus reaches our brain we have to interpret it to make sense of it.

Imagine that you are walking and you see a four-legged hairy animal. What is it? It might be a dog or a cat or any other animal that fits that description. The light bounces off the animal and catches your eye. That is a stimulus. Your ocular system transforms this into an electrical impulse and sends it to your brain. Your brain interprets this impulse based on your previous knowledge to decide what kind of animal it is.

But not only that. Let's say that you saw a dog. How does it make you feel? Maybe you've had bad experiences with dogs before and you feel a bit scared. Or maybe you've had good experiences and the dog looks harmless and you feel inclined to pet him.

This is how our opinions affect the way we perceive things and how we react to them. Every day at every moment, we are receiving stimuli and interpreting them. It is what makes us see something in a good light or bad light.

The Optimism of Prophet Muhammad

The Prophet, peace be upon him said:

I am amazed by optimism, the good word,

the kind word. Sahih al-Bukhari

Ibn Abbas reported:

The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, was optimistic and he did not see evil omens, and he liked good names.

Musnad Ahmad

This is what today psychology calls "positive thinking". It has become a branch of study within psychology. It focuses on helping people lead better lives.

But not everything that happens is good and not everyone is kind

That we think well of others does not mean that we are naïve. It means that we do not look for the bad and instead try to see the positive side of things.

Tragic and painful experiences are part of life and having a good opinion will not change that. And it does not mean that we always expect everyone to be kind. However, it can change the way we approach these experiences and deal with them, and it might help us cut down our prejudices and try to understand where the other person is coming from.

For example, having a good opinion of Allah might mean that when something difficult happens to us we try to find what is the good that Allah has put in it for us. What we can learn from that experience.

The Prophet, peace be upon him, said:

Wondrous is the affair of the believer for there is good for him in every matter and this is not the case with anyone except the believer. If he is happy, then he thanks Allah and thus there is good for him, and if he is harmed, then he shows patience and thus there is good for him.

Bukhari

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

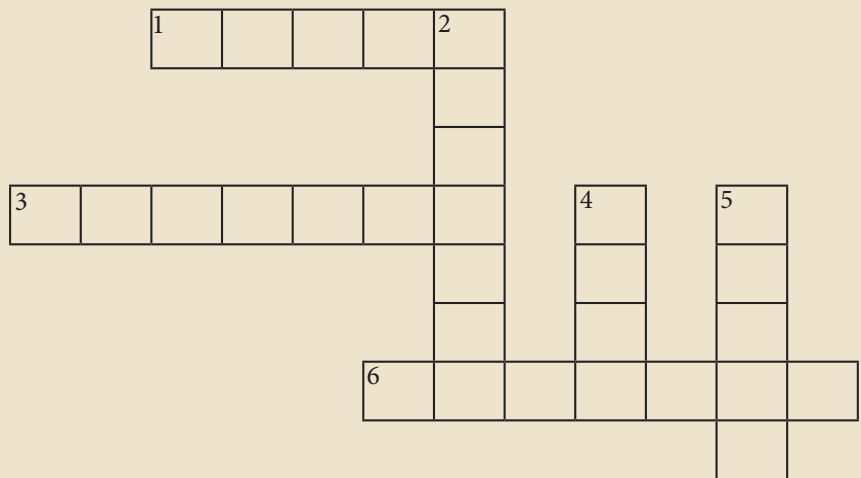
LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

ACROSS

2. Shawwal
4. Muakkadah
5. Kafirun

Down

1. Sukhur
3. Al-Baaqi
6. Five



ACROSS

1. Arabic term for Snow.
3. Surah whose name means "Abundant Good"
6. The Name of Allah meaning "The Incomparable"

DOWN

2. Name of Hadith narrated by Umar ibn al-Khattab
4. The city Caliph Ali ibn relocated his capital
5. Aqeeqah (naming ceremony) is on which day after childbirth

Kenya launches three-day Passport service to ease overseas travel

Kenyan citizens can now receive passports within 72 hours, President William Ruto announced on Tuesday, in a move aimed at reducing long delays that have hindered overseas employment and international travel.

Speaking at the 19th Ambassadors and High Commissioners Conference in Nairobi, he disclosed the government had restructured the passport application system to prioritize efficiency and ensure that qualified applicants are not held up by bureaucracy. "No Kenyan should be forced to wait weeks for a passport when all requirements are complete, this new system guarantees that eligible citizens receive their documents within three days." The President emphasized.

Under the new framework, applicants must have completed biometric registra-

tion and submitted all required documentation. Officials said the 72-hour turnaround will be available nationwide, though some passport offices may need additional time to fully implement the reform.

The initiative targets citizens seeking employment abroad, a group that has been particularly affected by long processing times. Delays in passport issuance have, in some cases, resulted in missed contracts and lost opportunities, prompting public frustration. "This reform is about more than speed, it is about giving Kenyans timely access to economic opportunities and ensuring that government services work efficiently for the people," he stated.

Travel industry and employment stakeholders have welcomed the announcement, calling it a long-overdue measure.

However, authorities warned that appli-

cants must ensure their paperwork is complete, as missing documents or errors could delay issuance. The government also pledged to publish detailed guidelines for applicants, including steps for verification and collection, to ensure a smooth transition to the accelerated service.

This development comes as part of the government's broader push to modernize civil services and streamline key administrative processes, reflecting a commitment to improving public service delivery and citizen satisfaction. With the 72-hour passport service, Kenya joins a growing number of countries offering fast-track document processing, a step likely to benefit thousands of citizens seeking employment, education, or travel abroad in the coming months.

SUPKEM urges Kenyans to participate in voter's registration

The Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) has urged Muslims and Kenyans at large to take part in the ongoing voter registration exercise, emphasizing its importance in strengthening democracy ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

In a statement shared on its social media platforms, SUPKEM called on eligible citizens to register during the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration (ECVR) exercise announced by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). The commission, through a Gazette Notice dated March 27, 2026, said the exercise will run from March 30 to April 28, 2026, across the country.

The voter registration will be conducted on a rotational basis at County Assembly

Wards, constituency offices, Huduma Centres, institutions of higher learning, and at the IEBC Customer Experience Centre in Nairobi. SUPKEM described voter registration as a civic duty and a critical pillar in promoting democratic governance and national unity. The council noted that the process ensures every eligible citizen's voice is reflected in leadership decisions. "This is your chance to exercise your right and duty by ensuring your name is correctly listed in the voters' register. This process lays the foundation for free, fair, and credible elections," the council said. The body encouraged first-time voters, particularly the youth, to register, noting that the exercise is open to all Kenyans aged 18 years and above with valid identification documents,

as well as those seeking to transfer polling stations or update their registration details. SUPKEM further called on political leaders, civil society organisations, and social media influencers to mobilise citizens and support the IEBC in achieving its target of registering 6.3 million voters ahead of the 2027 polls. Meanwhile, the IEBC has raised concerns over low voter registration turnout in arid and semi-arid regions, warning that the trend could undermine inclusive participation in future elections.

IEBC Commissioner Dr. Moses Alutalala Mukhwana noted that counties such as Isiolo County, Mandera County, and Tana River County are lagging behind in registration numbers.

Muslim states condemn Israeli restrictions on worship in Jerusalem

Foreign ministers of Pakistan, Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar issued a joint statement on Tuesday sharply criticizing Israel for imposing restrictions on religious worship in occupied Jerusalem, warning the measures risk inflaming regional tensions and violating international norms.

In the statement, the eight countries expressed strong concern over limits on Muslim access to the Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, one of Islam's holiest sites, which had been closed to worshippers for extended periods including during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, a move the ministers described as a serious violation of religious freedom and international law.

"The continued restrictions on Muslim worship at Al-Aqsa Mosque during Ramadan are deeply troubling and constitute a violation of international law," the statement read. "We call on Israel to respect

the sanctity of this sacred site and ensure full access for all worshippers without obstruction." The joint statement reiterated that any attempt to alter the historical and legal status quo at Muslim and Christian holy sites is illegal, calling Israel's actions a violation of both international and humanitarian law. The ministers underscored that Israel, as the occupying power, holds no sovereignty over occupied East Jerusalem or its sacred places.

The statement demanded that Israel immediately reopen the gates of Al-Aqsa Mosque and remove all access restrictions across the Old City of Jerusalem, reaffirming that the Jerusalem Waqf under Jordanian custodianship, is the authority responsible for Muslim access to the site. "The gates of Al-Aqsa must be reopened, and all restrictions on worship in the Old City must be lifted without delay," the ministers stressed. Foreign ministers also called on the international community to take substantive action to pressure Israel to respect freedom

of worship and international legal obligations, warning that continued restrictions could "heighten tensions and threaten peace and security" in the broader Middle East.

The diplomatic protest adds to growing international scrutiny over recent Israeli measures that have disrupted access to key religious sites amid heightened security concerns, including broader limitations on worship across communities in Jerusalem. "Freedom of worship is a fundamental human right. Denying access to holy sites is unacceptable and cannot be justified under any pretext," the statement concluded.

The complaints come against the backdrop of recent incidents in which access to major religious sites, including Al-Aqsa Mosque was restricted under security pretexts related to ongoing regional tensions, prompting condemnation from both regional governments and international religious leaders.

Jamia, SOHA distributes food donations to families in Mtito Andei

The Star of Hope Association (SOHA), in partnership with the Jamia Mosque Committee Nairobi, has distributed Ramadan food rations to more than 100 households in Mtito Andei and Darajani, in Makueni County offering much-needed support to vulnerable families during the holy month. The annual initiative underscores a long-standing collaboration between the two organizations aimed at easing the burden on communities in need. Beneficiaries received essential food supplies as part of efforts to ensure families can observe Ramadan with dignity.

SOHA Organizing Secretary Qari Abdul Razzaq lauded the Jamia Mosque Committee Nairobi for its continued generosity and commitment to humanitarian causes. "We as Star of Hope Association (SOHA) really appreciate and thank the Jamia Mosque Committee Nairobi for the donation and enduring partnership over the years, and we pray that Almighty Allah bless and reward them abundantly," he said.

Through such joint efforts, the two organizations have continued to champion humanitarian activities, providing relief and support to disadvantaged communities

during Ramadan. In a separate but related initiative, SOHA, working with Caravan of Mercy UK, reached more than 11,500 households across Wajir, Moyale, Korindile, and Marsabit Town during Ramadan 2026. The program provided essential food supplies, 57 water tankers each carrying 20,000 litres in Wajir, and clothing for men, women, and children, including hijabs, khamis, deras, and scarves.

The intervention comes amid persistent challenges such as prolonged drought and water scarcity that have severely affected livelihoods in the region. The presence of Caravan of Mercy UK Chairman Moulana Ibrahim on the ground highlighted both the urgency of the situation and the need for sustained humanitarian support.

Under the leadership of Qari Abdul Razzaq and the stewardship of Dr. Haroon Saeed, SOHA expressed gratitude to Caravan of Mercy UK for its enduring partnership, noting that the collaboration has consistently transformed lives.

Meanwhile, over 1,500 households also benefited from a Ramadan 2026 dry ration Iftar distribution organized by SOHA with support from Crescent of Hope South Africa. The initiative reflected the spirit of compas-



sion and solidarity that defines the holy month.

As humanitarian needs continue to grow, SOHA has reaffirmed its commitment to delivering sustainable programs in relief, education, health, and community development, aimed at uplifting vulnerable populations across the country.

MEC urges Gov't to prioritize schools infrastructure, teachers' shortage

The government has been urged to improve infrastructure and address teachers' shortage to fill existing gap in schools across the country.

According to Muslim Education Council (MEC) the country's education system is grappling with severe understaffing, inadequate laboratories and ICT facilities, and physical infrastructure, which are key challenges hampering education development.

Speaking on behalf of Muslim Education Council Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Muhammad Ibrahim during the 4th edition education day to celebrate achievements by Muslim schools in Western region, Busia County Education Board member Sadat Mansoor Kibira noted that infrastructure directly influences learning outcomes as it is a critical element in driving the growth and improvement of education standards in educational institutions.

He expressed concerns over the poor state of infrastructure in many Muslim schools in Western region, pointing out that many of 33 Muslim sponsored Primary schools in the region are struggling to meet the infrastructure requirements for the Junior Secondary School (JSS) transition.

Sadat further disclosed that several Muslim-owned and sponsored schools within the region were experiencing challenges due to lack of basic infrastructure such as classrooms, laboratories, dormitories,

libraries and sanitation facilities. In an increasingly digital world, Sadat noted access to technology is crucial for a modern education and said most Muslim schools in underserved areas lack computers, internet access, and other digital tools, putting students at a significant disadvantage in acquiring necessary skills for the future.

"In today's world, Science and computer laboratories are essential in secondary schools to support practical learning in subjects such as chemistry, physics, biology, and ICT. However, many public schools, particularly Muslim sponsored, lack properly functioning laboratories, limiting students' ability to gain hands-on experience," Sadat said.

He emphasized that well-developed education infrastructure is vital for quality

learning and student development in both primary and secondary schools and appealed to government for targeted capitulation towards the construction of classrooms and laboratories to ensure learners are not left behind in the Competency-Based Education (CBE)

system.

The MEC representative further highlighted that many Muslim-sponsored schools lack adequate teaching staff, urging the government to post more teachers to these institutions

"Muslim-sponsored primary and secondary schools in the Western region offering Islamic Religious Education (IRE) and Arabic language are experiencing a shortage of teachers," he said.

He urged the government and TSC to resolve the staffing crisis by deploying trained Muslim teachers who specialize in IRE and Arabic.

He emphasized that the shortage has forced many schools to drop these subjects, underscoring the need for an affirmative action policy to address the issue.

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Over 100 families displaced in Uasin Gishu evictions receive aid from Hudaa

More than 100 families displaced during a controversial eviction exercise in Pioneer Kambi Nyasi, Kipkaren, in Uasin Gishu County last week have received humanitarian assistance from the Hudaa Foundation. The non-governmental organisation distributed foodstuffs to the affected residents, offering temporary relief to families now living in makeshift plastic shelters following the demolition of their homes. The eviction was carried out by the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK), which claims ownership of the disputed land.

The operation, conducted early Tuesday morning on a contested 12-acre parcel, has sparked widespread outrage among residents, human rights groups, and religious leaders, with concerns mounting over its humanitarian impact and legality. The demolitions left children, women, and the elderly exposed to heavy rains, with no access to food, blankets, or medical care. Speaking during a food distribution exercise on Thursday, Sheikh Abubakar Bini, who also chairs the Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya (CIPK) North Rift, condemned the manner in which the evictions were conducted, terming the exercise insensitive to the humanitarian consequences. He called for urgent intervention from the church leadership, political actors, and humanitarian agencies, noting that many of the affected residents had lived in the area for more than 50 years and lost all their belongings during the 4 a.m. eviction.

"We are urging the church, especially the leadership of the ACK, to sympathise with the elderly, women, and children who



have suffered following these evictions from a place they have called home for decades," said Sheikh Bini.

The eviction followed a ruling by the Lands and Environment Court, which awarded the disputed land to the church after years of legal wrangles.

Residents, however, decried the process, saying it was carried out without adequate notice. Abdillahi Jillow, who has lived in the area for 45 years, said he was left stranded.

Local human rights activist Kimutai Kirui accused the church of abandoning its moral responsibility to protect vulnerable members of society, revealing that plans are underway to file an appeal in court.

"The church is supposed to be a lifeline for

the vulnerable in society, not the oppressor," he said.

However, Christopher Ruto, the ACK Bishop of Eldoret, defended the eviction, stating that the land was legally owned by the church and had been allocated to it by former President Daniel Arap Moi. He maintained that the eviction was conducted in accordance with a valid court order. Forced evictions remain a recurring issue in Kenya, often pitting landowners against informal settlers. The law requires that evictions adhere to due process, including adequate notice, court-sanctioned orders, and provisions for humane relocation where possible. Failure to meet these standards has frequently triggered legal challenges and public outcry.

New Mosque in Laisamis set to boost faith and community life

Residents of Laisamis in Marsabit County are set to witness a landmark moment today as the newly constructed Masjid Al-Saffiyah officially opens its doors, marking a major milestone for the local Muslim community.

The mosque, funded by the Al-Khair Foundation, is part of a broader initiative aimed at uplifting underserved communities through faith-based and social development projects.

For years, worshippers in Laisamis have faced challenges accessing a well-built and accessible place of prayer, making the completion of Masjid Al-Saffiyah a deeply significant development. The mosque's towering minaret, rising above the surrounding acacia landscape, now stands as a visible symbol of hope, unity, and spiritual renewal in the area.

Strategically located along a busy highway, the mosque is expected to serve not only local residents but also travelers in need of a place to pray and rest. Community members say the facility will play a key role in strengthening da'wah efforts in

the region by providing a central hub for learning, guidance, and social connection.

Plans are already underway for the mosque to host Qur'anic classes, community gatherings, and outreach programmes designed to nurture both faith and cohesion among residents.

As the official opening ceremony takes place today, a sense of excitement and pride has gripped the community. Elders, youth, and families alike view the mosque as a turning point—offering a space where worship, education, and opportunity can converge.

In a region often defined by distance and hardship, this mosque stands as a powerful reminder: even in the most remote corners, spaces of light and purpose can rise, bringing people closer—not just to each other, but to something greater.

