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THE FRIDAY BULLETIN
The Weekly Muslim Update

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Saudi Arabia rewards winners of Kenya national Qur'an competition

Overall winner of the second edition of the Saudi Arabia National Holy Qur'an Competition, Hamza Mohammed Madobe (centre), receives a dummy cheque worth 25,000 Saudi Riyals (approximately KSh 860,000). From right are Dr Mbwarali Kame, Saudi Embassy Religious Attaché; Mohammed Mater Mahzari, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Kenya; His Excellency Saad Abdullah S. Al-Nofaia; Governor Nathif Jama; Jamia Mosque Committee (JMC) Secretary-General AbdulBari Hamid; JMC Deputy Chairman Abdullatif Essajee; and SUPKEM Chairman Hassan Ole Naado.

Hamza Mohammed Madobe from Nairobi emerged the overall winner in the second edition of the Saudi Arabia National Holy Qur'an Competition in Kenya, which concluded on Tuesday after three days of recitation and memorisation contests.

Hamza, who competed in the full Qur'an memorisation category, impressed the judges with his mastery of the Holy Qur'an and the rules of recitation, known as tajweed, earning him a cash prize of Sh860,000, equivalent to 25,000 Saudi riyals, and an acrylic trophy.

The competition was organised by the Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Da'wah and Guidance through its Religious Attaché Office in Kenya, in collaboration with the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) and the Jamia Mosque Committee Nairobi.

Held at Iconic Plaza Hotel in Nairobi, the three-day event brought together 40 finalists who qualified from preliminary rounds involving 280 contestants drawn from different parts of the country. The preliminary rounds were held from September 5 to 7 at Jamia Mosque Nairobi, Masjid Andalus in Garissa, Masjid Bilal in Mombasa, Jamia Mosque Nakuru, Jamia Mosque Isiolo, Masjid Falah in Wajir and Jamia Mosque Mandera.

The competition featured four categories: memorisation of five, 15, 20 and 30 ajzaa. In the full Qur'an category, Ahmed Mohammed Hille of Al Huffadh Nairobi finished second, receiving Sh680,000, while Abubakar Abaw Salim took third place with Sh510,000.

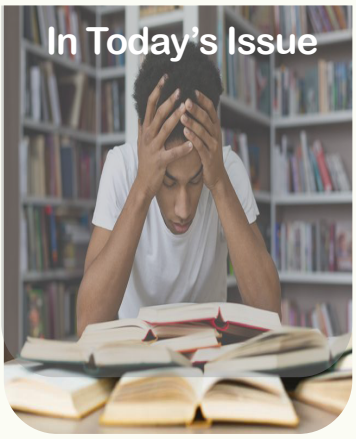
In the 20-ajzaa category, Sayid Ahmad Salim Sharif from Mombasa emerged the winner, earning Sh680,000. Abdurashid Dekow Shali from Nairobi finished second with Sh510,000, while Abdullahi Mohammed Osman, also from Nairobi, took third place with Sh340,000.

In the 15-ajzaa category, Abdurahman Yusuf Abdille from Garissa claimed the top position, winning Sh510,000. Qassim Hussein Ali from Nairobi finished second with Sh340,000, while Salim Said Ahmed from Mombasa took third place, receiving Sh170,000.

Garissa contestants also dominated the five-ajzaa category, with Abdullahi Farah Sirat emerging the winner, followed by Abdullahi Yusuf Mohammed.

Continued To Page 2

In Today's Issue



1 Islamic Tips to Help Students Excel in Their Exams
By drawing inspiration from traditional Islamic teachings, students can approach their examinations with confidence, calmness and ihsan, striving to do their best.

2 Eight nominees recommended for Waqf Commission
The Office of the Attorney General has recommended eight nominees for appointment to the Waqf Commission following a selection process that attracted 148 applicants.

3 Discover, Learn, and Play – The Islamic Way!
Boost your Islamic knowledge with our weekly Crossword Puzzle, Knowlegde Quiz, and Ayah of the Week.
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Attorney General's panel recommends eight nominees for Waqf Commission

The Office of the Attorney General will proceed with the appointment of eight members to the Waqf Commission following the completion of a selection process that attracted 148 applicants.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, October 14, the Office said it would process the selection panel's recommendations and formally appoint the members in accordance with the Waqf Act.

The nominees comprise a Muslim scholar well versed in Islamic jurisprudence, a prominent businessperson or entrepreneur, and six professionals with relevant technical expertise.

The proposed composition is intended to strengthen the governance and administration of waqf properties in Kenya.

The selection panel received 148 applications, shortlisted 35 candidates and conducted interviews at the Attorney General's Chambers in Nairobi from September 14 to 18, 2026.

It also invited members of the Muslim community to submit their views on the shortlisted candidates, receiving 39 written submissions.

The assessment involved in-person interviews and practical exercises tailored to the different nominee categories. The panel also verified candidates' supporting documents and statutory clearances before evaluating their suitability.

Candidates were assessed on their knowledge of the relevant legal framework and compliance with the leadership and integrity requirements under Chapter Six of the Constitution.

Beyond the nominations, the panel recommended measures to improve the administration and management of awqaf, including digitising records relating to waqf properties, ownership titles, leases, trustees, beneficiaries, income, liabilities and disputes.

It also called for the timely development of rules and regulations to support the implementation of the Waqf Act, including appropriate registration and reporting frameworks.

The Office said the recommendations would strengthen institutional accountability, improve the stewardship of waqf properties and enhance public confidence in the administration of endowed assets for the benefit of their intended beneficiaries.

The Waqf Commission is mandated to register awqaf, administer and manage waqf properties, supervise their effective management, oversee the implementation of the Waqf Act and formulate relevant policies.

Its other functions include collecting zakat and other charitable contributions from Muslims, developing training programmes for trustees and promoting public awareness of waqf matters.

Under the Waqf Act, the Commission comprises the Public Trustee and eight members appointed by the Attorney General on the recommendation of a selection panel.

Saudi Arabia rewards winners

Continued From Page 1

Hilaal Abdi Mohammed from Nairobi finished third. The three received Sh340,000, Sh140,000 and Sh100,000, respectively.

Speaking at the closing and awards ceremony, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Kenya, His Excellency Saad Abdullah S. Al-Nofaia, said the competition demonstrated the Kingdom's commitment to serving the Holy Qur'an and promoting the authentic teachings of Islam.

He commended Kenyan Muslims for their dedication to Qur'an recitation and memorisation, saying Saudi Arabia would continue supporting initiatives that strengthen young people's relationship with the Holy Book, identify gifted reciters and memorizers, and promote the values of Islam as taught in the Qur'an and Sunnah.

The ambassador also reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to strengthening bilateral relations with Kenya and expanding cooperation with Muslim organisations in the country.

"I wish to reaffirm that the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Kenya will continue to expand cooperation and strengthen bilateral relations between Saudi Arabia and Kenya. The embassy will also work closely with Muslims and Muslim organisations in Kenya," he said.

His Excellency Al-Nofaia further announced that next year's national Qur'an competition would include female contestants, in a move aimed at making the event more inclusive.

"Since women are great pillars of society and the community, and are also the first madrassa, next year, Insha Allah, I promise there will be female competitors in the national Qur'an competition," he said.

Deputy Chairman of the Jamia Mosque Committee Nairobi, Abdullatif Essajee, thanked the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for supporting the initiative and commended the Saudi Embassy for its continued collaboration with the mosque and assistance to Kenyan Muslims.

Essajee said Jamia Mosque Nairobi had maintained longstanding ties with the Saudi Embassy through various programmes and initiatives benefiting the Muslim community.

He also invited Ambassador Al-Nofaia to visit the mosque to further strengthen the relationship between the two institutions.

"Jamia Mosque Nairobi has had longstanding working relations with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Kenya, where we have partnered and collaborated in various areas and programmes for the benefit of Kenyan Muslims. Therefore, Your Excellency, we humbly invite you to pay a visit to Jamia Mosque Nairobi," he said.

SUPKEM National Chairman Hassan Ole Naado praised the competition for nurturing young Muslims and encouraging them to learn, preserve and live by the teachings of the Holy Qur'an.

"The competition provides a valuable platform for nurturing our young people's connection with the Qur'an while promoting excellence in Islamic knowledge and education," he said.

Ole Naado also commended the partnership between the Saudi Embassy's Religious Attaché Office, Jamia Mosque Nairobi and SUPKEM, saying the initiative would help develop a new generation of Qur'an students while strengthening their faith, discipline, knowledge and moral character.

Among those present at the closing ceremony were the Saudi Embassy's Religious Attaché, Mohammed Mater Mahzari; Jamia Mosque Committee Secretary-General Abdulbari Hamid; Chairman of the Majlis Ulamaa of Kenya Sheikh Khalfan Khamis; member of the Majlis Ulamaa of Jamia Mosque Nairobi Sheikh Qari Abdulrazzaq; Jamia Mosque Committee member Sheikh Ibrahim Lethome; SUPKEM North-Eastern Regional Coordinator Sheikh Dr Adan Yunis; and Mombasa County Executive Committee Member for Education Dr Mbwarali Kame, among other guests.

14 Islamic Tips to Help Students Excel in Their Exams

By Sheikh Jamaludin Osman

As students across Kenya prepare to sit their national examinations, including the KPSEA, KJSEA na KCSE the examination period can be one of the most stressful moments in a young person's life.

Islam, however, teaches Muslims to combine sincere reliance upon Allah with preparation, discipline and excellence. By drawing inspiration from traditional Islamic teachings, students can approach their examinations with confidence, calmness and ihsan, striving to do their best.

Here are 14 tips to help students navigate the examination period.

1. Turn to Allah

Put your trust in Allah and seek His help. Alongside your preparation and revision, make du'a and ask Allah to make your affairs easy.

One of the supplications of Prophet Musa (peace be upon him) is: "Rabbi-shrah lee sadree Wa yassir lee amree"

"My Lord, expand for me my chest and ease for me my task."

(Qur'an 20:25–26)

2. Sleep early and arrive on time

Get enough rest before an examination and leave home early enough to reach the examination centre on time. Arriving late can create unnecessary panic and affect your concentration.

3. Prepare everything you need

Arrange all the necessary examination materials in advance, including pens, rulers, set squares, calculators and any other permitted equipment.

Being properly prepared reduces distractions and allows you to concentrate fully on answering the questions.

4. Sit comfortably and maintain good posture

If possible, choose a suitable place to sit and maintain a healthy posture throughout the examination. Sit upright and avoid positions that may cause discomfort or fatigue.

5. Begin with the name of Allah

Before starting, remember Allah and say Bismillah. Beginning an important task by remembering Allah reminds a believer that success ultimately comes from Him.

6. Do not allow anxiety to overwhelm you

It is normal to feel nervous before an examination, but do not allow fear to take control. Remain optimistic and speak positively to yourself. Say: "In Shaa Allah, it will be easy."

Place your trust in Allah while doing everything within your ability to prepare.

7. Read the paper carefully

Take time to read through the examination paper carefully before beginning to answer.Pay attention to key words in each question and use the available time wisely. Good time management can help prevent rushing towards the end of the examination.

8. Start strategically

Begin with questions you understand and can answer confidently. You can then move to more difficult questions.

Pay attention to the marks allocated to each question and divide your time accordingly. Questions you are unsure about can be revisited later rather than allowing them to consume too much of your examination time.

9. Do not be hasty

Take your time and think carefully before writing your answers.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) taught that deliberation is from Allah, while haste is from Shaytan. Avoid rushing simply because other students appear to be moving faster.

10. Make your answers clear

Present your answers clearly and ensure that the important points are easy to identify.

Good handwriting, proper organisation and clear presentation can help the examiner follow your response and identify the points you have made.

11. Leave time for checking

Do not rush to hand in your paper as soon as you have completed the questions.

Reserve part of the examination time to review your answers. Check for unanswered questions, calculation errors, spelling mistakes and instructions that may have been overlooked.

Do not be distracted by other students leaving the examination room early. Use the time available to you wisely.

12. Learn from your mistakes

If you discover after an examination that you answered some questions incorrectly, do not allow disappointment to overwhelm you.

Take the experience as a lesson. Consider where you went wrong and use it to improve your preparation for the next paper.

Accept the decree of Allah and do not fall into frustration or despair. Your responsibility is to prepare, make your best effort and place your trust in Allah.

13. Stay away from cheating

Cheating is prohibited in Islam, whether in national examinations, school tests or any other form of assessment.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

"Whoever cheats us is not one of us." (Sahih Muslim)

Reject any offer to cheat, even if it comes from friends or other students. Give up what is unlawful for the sake of Allah and trust that He will provide what is better.

14. Remember the bigger examination

As important as school examinations are, Muslims are also reminded of the ultimate accountability before Allah.

The believer should remember the questions of the grave and the Day of Resurrection and strive to prepare for that meeting with Allah.

Allah says:

"Whoever is saved from the Fire and admitted to Paradise has certainly succeeded." (Qur'an 3:185).

Academic success is important, but true success is to live a life pleasing to Allah.

Do Your Best and Trust Allah

Examinations require preparation, discipline, patience and concentration. For Muslim students, they also provide an opportunity to practise tawakkul, placing one's trust in Allah while taking the necessary means.

Revise diligently, pray sincerely, follow the examination rules, remain calm and give every paper your best effort.

May Allah grant all students beneficial knowledge, ease their examinations, strengthen their memory, calm their hearts and grant them success in this life and the Hereafter. Ameen.

How Our Habits Shape Our Kids: The Unseen Connection Between Parent and Child

By Umm Fatima Zahra

We often think about parenting in terms of what we explicitly teach our children: reminding them to say "thank you," helping with homework, or taking them to sports practice. But children are expert observers. Long before they pay attention to what we say, they absorb who we are.

In Islamic tradition, a parent's legacy is not just the wealth or house they leave behind. It is the spiritual and moral groundwork laid within the home every single day. The choices we make around our money, our food, and our daily behavior directly shape the hearts and futures of our kids.

The Energy in the Kitchen: Halal Earnings and Wholesome Intake

It is easy to view food as just fuel or calories, but what enters our kitchen table carries a real spiritual footprint.

When parents work hard to keep their income completely honest, transparent, and free from anything doubtful, that pure intention enters the food bought with it. In the Quran, Allah addresses the messengers with a very specific order:

"O messengers! Eat from what is good and lawful, and act righteously. Indeed, I fully know what you do."

(Surah Al-Mu'minun 23:51)

Scholars often point out that the command to eat pure, wholesome (tayyib) food comes before the command to do good deeds.

The food we give our children physically builds their growing bodies, their blood, and their bones. When that food comes from clean earnings, it creates a subtle inclination toward goodness, making it easier for them to grow up with soft, receptive hearts.

On the flip side, bringing doubtful wealth into the home creates a subtle heaviness. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) gave a clear warning about this:

Ka'b bin Ujrah narrated: "The Messenger of Allah said to me: 'I seek refuge in Allah for you O Ka'b bin Ujrah from leader that will be after me. Whoever comes to their doors to approve of their lies and supports them in their oppression, then he is not of me and I am not of him, and he will not meet me at the Hawd. And whoever comes to their doors, or he does not come, and he does not approve of their lies and he does not support them in their oppression, then he is from me and I am from him, and he will meet me at the Hawd. Ka'ab bin Ujrah! Salat is clear proof, and Sawm (fasting) is an impregnable shield, and Sadaqah (charity) extinguishes sins just as water extinguishes fire. O Ka'b bin Ujrah! There is no flesh raised that sprouts from the unlawful except that the Fire is more appropriate for it.'"

(Jami` at-Tirmidhi 614). Guarding what enters our homes is one of the most effective ways to protect our children from an early age.

Children Mirror What We Do, Not What We Say

Kids are constantly picking up on our emotional habits and reactions. If a child sees honesty, patience, and kindness in how their parents deal with stress or interact with neighbours, those qualities become their default setting.

If they hear gossip, anger, or dishonesty normalized at home, those behaviors quietly become acceptable in their eyes too. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) emphasized the weight of what parents pass down through their daily character:

Ayyub bin Musa narrated from his father, from his grandfather, that the Messenger of Allah said: "There is no gift that a father gives his son more virtuous than good manners." (Jami` at-Tirmidhi 1952)

Grade: Da'if (Darussalam)

Good manners (adab) cannot be taught purely through lectures. They are caught through daily observation.

How we treat people when we think no one is watching is often the exact template our children inherit.

The Power of a Parent's Unseen Prayer

While our habits, food, and behavior build the foundation, ultimate guidance rests with Allah. One of the greatest tools a parent holds is the power of quiet supplication for their offspring.

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) reminded us:

"It was narrated that Abu Hurairah that: the Messenger of Allah (saas) said:

"There are three supplications that will undoubtedly be answered: the supplication of one who has been wronged; the supplication of the traveler; and the supplication of a father for his child." (Sunan Ibn Majah 3862)

Consistently asking Allah to protect our children's hearts, keep them on the straight path, and grant them good company is an essential part of building a lasting legacy.

Building a Legacy That Outlasts Us

Creating a healthy, conscious home does not mean being perfect every minute of the day.

It means being mindful. When we audit our earnings, choose tayyib and halal food, mind our tempers, and treat people with fairness, we are not just working on ourselves. We are laying down the spiritual soil in which our children will grow.

That quiet effort is the true legacy that stays with them long after they leave our care.

Light of Knowledge Quiz

The number of Islamic calendar months that begin with "Rabi".

A Three

B Six

C Two

Answer to be revealed in the next issue

Last week's answer was choice A: "Al-Baaqi"

The faith revival – your faith wears out

By Omar Suleiman

Last time, we talked about the meanings of Iman and how a person can recognize where they need to strengthen their Iman by looking at their insecurity. If I have insecurities in a particular attribute in Allah that I need to focus on re-establishing my iman in Allah in that way.

But when it comes to faith, all of us will recognize that overtime faith wears out. It doesn't take you a hadith to recognize that because you might remember a time where you felt really close to Allah and then now you feel like you're distant from Him and you feel like you've gone back on some of the things that you were able to attain and you start wondering "What happened?"

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in this particular hadith:

Faith wears out in your hearts the way that your garments would wear out (Mustadrak al-Haakim).

Now, think about this. If you throw your garment into the washing machine over and over again, it starts to lose its color. You bought it new, and even if you're taking care of that garment, it starts to lose its color just by the amount of washing that it goes through.

So the Prophet (peace be upon him) is saying that it's natural that your faith is going to wear out the same way that your garments would wear out.

Now, there is a difference between taking your garment and getting stains allover and not washing it when the stains come on it or tearing holes into your garment.

So you can take care of this and still it will lose some of its color. But there is a difference between someone who takes of it and someone who doesn't take care of it at all.

Nevertheless, the Prophet (peace be upon him) is telling us it is natural that your faith is going to wear out. And here the thing about your iman.

It may be one color or it may be that it was strong because of a particular incident that happened to you in life or some sort of occurrence or something that really touched you at that particular moment.

And maybe what's going to renew it is something entirely different because Allah has opened many doors for us to be reminded of Him and to have our faith renewed.

So the Prophet (peace be upon him) continues in this hadith and He gives us the first place we should go. He says:

Ask Allah that He would renew your faith.Before we get any of the practical tips here, it starts off with asking Allah. Ask God the one who enables your heart, the one who puts faith in you, the one who responds you… ask Him to renew your faith and that should be frequent in your du'as to Allah.

So while you're praying for a new job, or while you're praying for some sort of sustenance in this world while you're praying for something to happen to you, for a new car, for God to ease the path of something for you… don't forget to constantly ask Allah to renew your iman because your faith is your greatest blessing, it's your most precious asset.

If that is gone, then everything else is not going to benefit you in anyway. If it is strong, then everything else of this world can be bore.

So the Prophet said:

Ask Allah that He would revive your faith.

Abdullah ibn Mas'ud gave us a supplication and I want you to memorize it on the basis of this hadith, he used to say:

O Allah revive us in our faith and our certainty, and in our understanding.

So asking Allah for increase in your faith, in your conviction, your certainty, and in your understanding of Allah anytime you come across a du'a which talks about this increase, which talks about Allah enabling you.

For example the best du'a that Imam ibn Taymiyyah mentioned is the du'a (supplication) the Prophet taught Mu'adh as he sent him off to Yemen:

O Allah enable me to properly remember you and to thank you and to worship you. (Abu Dawud)

And he said because you're asking the enabler to enable you.

O turner of hearts make my heart firm. (At-Tirmidhi)

When you ask Allah to purify your soul, ask the enabler to enable you. Ask the one who can truly purify you.

Ask of Him. And that's the best thing that you can do for your iman is to constantly ask Allah and He forces you to in your prayer when you say: "Guide us to the straight Path" every single time you recite the opening chapter.

So again the du'a is:

O Allah increase us in faith, in conviction, and in understanding.

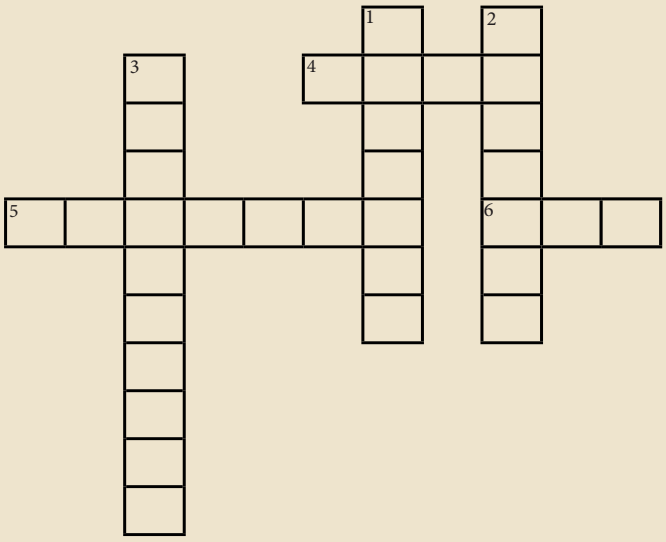
Ameen.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

ACROSS
2.Al-Aakhir
5. Messenger
6. Rijl

DOWN
1. Mutaffifin
3. Umar
4. Seven



ACROSS

4.Arabic term referrring to Abdomen / Stomach
5.The Companion chosen to lead the prayers during the Prophet's final illness.
6.The number of Islamic calendar months that begin with "Rabi".

DOWN

1.The Surah that contains the highest number of Ayahs.
2.Surah whose name means,"The Splitting Open"
3.The Name of Allah meaning "The Determiner"

CIPK urges JSC to fast-track recruitment of Kadhis

The Council of Imams and Preachers of Kenya (CIPK) has urged the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to fast-track the recruitment of more Kadhis and appoint a substantive Chief Kadhi to address a growing backlog of cases in Kadhi's Courts across the country.

CIPK North Rift chairman Sheikh Abubakar Bini said a shortage of Kadhis, following retirements and deaths since the last major recruitment exercise in 2015, had left litigants waiting months for rulings on personal status matters, including marriage, divorce and inheritance.

Speaking on Sunday, October 4, during a certificate award ceremony for students who excelled at Madrasatul Huda in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County, Sheikh Abubakar attributed the growing number of pending cases to inadequate staffing in Kadhi's Courts.

He said many of the Kadhis recruited in 2015 had since retired or died, creating gaps in service delivery and limiting the courts' capacity to hear and determine cases."We are now dealing with a growing gap as many Kadhis have retired. This leaves significant gaps in service delivery in the courts, and it is important that this issue is addressed," he said.

Sheikh Abubakar said Kadhi's Courts played a critical role in administering justice within the Muslim community and called on the JSC to fill vacant positions urgently to ease the backlog and ensure timely access to justice.

"The number of Kadhis has declined from 56 to 43 serving across Kenya. We expected the number to increase to adequately cover all regions, but it has instead gone down," he said.

Last year, the JSC advertised five positions for Resident Kadhis and shortlisted 34 candidates. However, more than a year later, no update has been issued on the progress of the recruitment process.

The office of the Chief Kadhi has also remained vacant since the death of Sheikh Athman Abdulhalim in July last year. Senior Principal Kadhi Sheikh Sukyan Omar Hassan has been serving in an acting capacity.

In August, Mombasa Senator Mohamed Faki Mwinyihaji called on the JSC to expedite the appointment of a substantive Chief Kadhi, warning that the prolonged vacancy was affecting the administration of justice in Kadhi's Courts.

Several Kadhi's Courts across the country, including those in Kitale, Thika, Murang'a, Busia, Homa Bay, Vihiga, Migori and Faza, have also been closed.

The closures have forced residents to travel long distances to access judicial services, further delaying the resolution of disputes.

The certificate award ceremony brought together more than 100 students from Madrasa tul Hudaa who had participated in competitions held at the AP Mosque in Eldoret.

Health Ministry urges religious centres to raise Ebola awareness

The Ministry of Health has urged religious centres across Kenya to help raise Ebola awareness, promote preventive practices and encourage early reporting of suspected cases as the government strengthens preparedness following confirmation of an imported case of the Bundibugyo virus.

In an advisory, Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni said the government had intensified contact tracing, surveillance at points of entry, public communication and preparations for isolation and treatment.

The Ministry urged religious leaders to use sermons, announcements and community outreach programmes to share accurate health information, help communities recognise symptoms and encourage prompt medical attention.

"We call upon all congregations to remain calm, vigilant and guided by verified public health information," said Muthoni.

Ebola is a serious and potentially fatal disease transmitted through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person, the body of someone who has died from the disease, contaminated materials or infected animals.

The advisory clarifies that the virus does not spread through the air.Symptoms may appear between two and 21 days after exposure and include sudden fever, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea and rash.

Unexplained bleeding may occur in severe cases, but the Ministry advises against waiting for bleeding before seeking medical attention.

The Ministry recommends monitoring contacts for 21 days after their last possible exposure, noting that not every contact requires isolation.

"Not every contact requires isolation, but anyone who develops symptoms must report immediately for assessment," the advisory states.

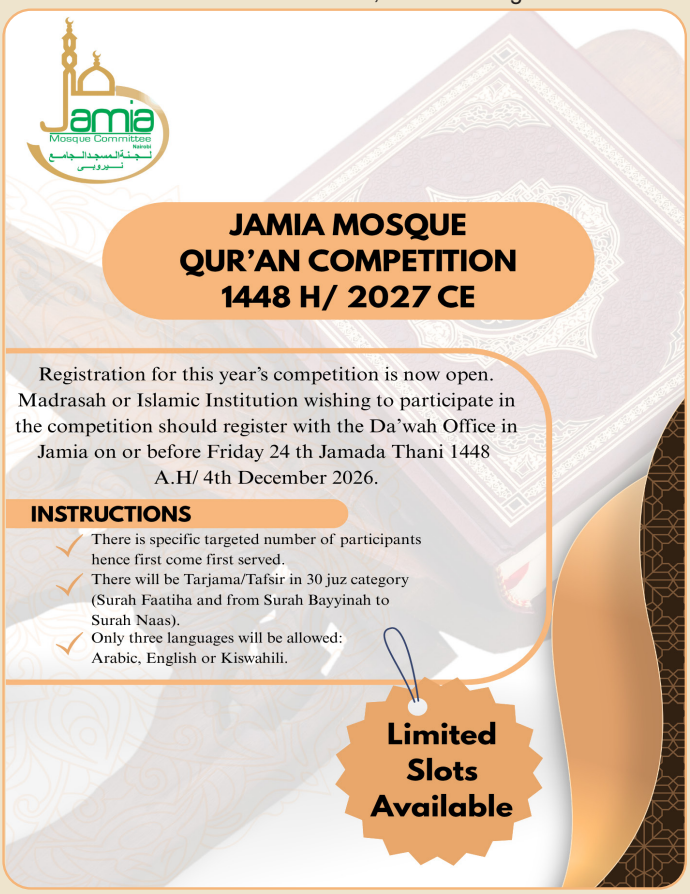
Kenyans have been urged to wash their hands regularly with soap and running water or hand sanitiser.

They should avoid contact with the body fluids of suspected or confirmed cases and close physical contact where infection is suspected.

Anyone who suspects exposure should report to health authorities, even if they feel well, and call the Ministry's toll-free hotline, 719, for guidance on safe referral and transport.

The advisory warns against handling the bodies of people who die from suspected Ebola because they may remain highly infectious.It also urges the public to avoid stigmatising patients, survivors and their families and to rely on verified information.

The Ministry's other communication channels include USSD *719#, the JALI WhatsApp Assistant on 0700 719 719 and its website, www.health.go.ke.



CS Ogamba warns Schools against discrimination over Hijab

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Migos Ogamba has warned school heads, boards and managements against violating learners' religious rights, saying those found culpable will face disciplinary or legal action.

Appearing before the Senate on October 7, Ogamba said the Ministry of Education would not tolerate discrimination against learners on religious grounds, stressing that school rules must comply with the Constitution and national education policies.

He confirmed that investigations into the case of Samira Ali Ramadhan, a learner at St Mary's Lwak Girls High School, established that she had been discouraged from wearing the hijab despite an existing ministry directive on religious attire.

The matter has since been referred to the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) for appropriate action.

Ogamba told senators that a 2022 ministry directive protects learners' rights to wear religious attire, pray and worship, while prohibiting schools from compelling them to participate in religious activities against their personal or family wishes.

"Any reports of violations will be thoroughly investigated and immediate action taken against those found to violate the rights of learners. Appropriate action will also be taken against errant boards and managements and teachers who are culpable in the violation of the rights of learners," he said.

The Cabinet Secretary further warned that religious beliefs must not be used to deny any child the constitutional right to free and compulsory basic education.

Responding to a question from Nominated Senator Shakila Abdalla, Ogamba reaffirmed that Muslim learners' right to wear religious attire, including the hijab, is protected by the Constitution and the ministry's policy framework.

Abdalla had sought clarification on the government's policy regarding religious attire and symbols in basic education institutions, the safeguards available to learners facing discrimination, and the disciplinary measures applicable when violations are established.

"What is the ministry's policy and regulatory framework regarding the wearing of religious attire and symbols, including the hijab, in basic educational institutions, and what is the ministry's jurisdiction?" she asked.

The senator said the issue should be addressed within the framework of the 2010 Constitution, which guarantees equality, freedom of religion, the right to education and the best interests of the child.

"Every learner has a right to education, dignity, equality and freedom of religion. School rules must operate within, and not contrary to, the Constitution," she said.

The referral of Samira's case to the TSC places the matter before the body responsible for the professional conduct and discipline of teachers.

The commission is expected to determine the appropriate action in light of the ministry's findings.

The case has renewed attention on the balance between school discipline and uniformity, and learners' constitutional rights.

The ministry's position is that school dress codes and institutional rules must not override those rights.

Taawun Trust, AWET sign 10-year deal to revitalise Kutus Muslim School

Taawun Trust Organisation and Angel Welfare & Education Trust (AWET) have signed a 10-year partnership agreement with the Kutus Muslim Community to revitalise and expand infrastructure at Kutus Muslim Integrated School.

The agreement, signed by representatives of the two organisations and the school committee, seeks to upgrade facilities, improve educational standards and integrate formal learning with community development initiatives.

The partners will also jointly mobilise donations, sponsorships and grants to support education and community development projects, subject to the accountability and joint management provisions outlined in the agreement.

Speaking during the signing, Taawun Trust Chairman Yahya Dafala said the partnership would focus on four key areas: school revitalisation, quality education, vocational education and training (VET), and Madrasa Tahfidh.

Dafala said the organisations would also collaborate with the Kutus Muslim Community to support mosque programmes, madrasa activities, da'wah initiatives and other community projects.

Under the arrangement, Taawun Trust is expected to uphold acceptable educational and boarding standards, employ qualified teachers and other staff, provide appropriate learning materials and ensure a safe and supportive environment for learners.

The partnership also seeks to strengthen Madrasa Tahfidh programmes, enabling learners to pursue Qur'anic studies and memorisation alongside mainstream education.

The introduction of vocational education and training is expected to provide young people with additional opportunities to acquire practical and technical skills, complementing conventional academic pathways.

Established in 2018, Taawun Trust Organisation is a non-governmental organisation that supports vulnerable communities through charitable initiatives.

Its activities include Ramadan food distribution in several counties, including Nairobi, Garissa, Kericho, Murang'a, Kwale and Tana River.

Nyeri, Malindi to offer full passport services

Nyeri and Malindi are set to join the list of centres offering full passport registration and issuance services as the government moves to decentralise immigration services across the country.

Although immigration offices already operate in the two towns, applicants requiring biometric capture and other essential stages of passport processing have had to travel to Nairobi to complete the process.

The planned upgrades will enable the offices to handle the entire passport application process locally, easing the burden on residents and improving access to the services for Kenyans travelling abroad for employment, education and business.

Speaking on Tuesday, October 6, during a high-level meeting with officials from the Directorate of Immigration Services, Interior Cabinet Secretary Kipchumba

Continued To BackPage

Sagal Abdi-Wali makes history as first British Somali woman elected MP

Sagal Abdi-Wali has made history as the first British Somali woman to be elected to the UK Parliament after winning the Holborn and St Pancras by-election.

Abdi-Wali, 42, arrived in the UK as a child refugee from Somalia with her family in the 1990s.

She grew up in Camden, worked as a housing officer for Camden Council and was elected as a councillor in 2022.

She became leader of Camden Council in May, with the Labour Party highlighting her strong local roots during the election campaign.

Speaking after her victory, Abdi-Wali pledged to work to improve families' lives, saying homelessness was the issue that drew her into politics.

According to Labour, she has volunteered and served as a trustee for local charities for more than a decade. She has also served as a school governor at two schools and worked as a local government officer at the council.

Before becoming council leader, Abdi-Wali served as cabinet member for better homes.

In that role, she led efforts to ensure residents lived in safe, warm and well-maintained homes and oversaw a £670 million programme to improve social housing, according to the council.

In her first BBC interview since the election, she described housing as a major crisis in Camden, London and the wider UK, pledging to make it a daily priority.

"The only way we get out of the housing crisis is to build more social, affordable homes and also every other type of tenure," she said.

"I'm really proud that the government is ready on that page with me, and I'm going to make sure that I'm working on that from day one." She added.

Abdi-Wali has also voiced support for bringing Thames Water back into public ownership.

Addressing supporters at the election count, she said her commitment to the community ran deep and pledged to do everything possible to improve the lives of residents and their families.

"Camden gave me a community and instilled in me a belief in social justice, in equality and fairness," she said.

"To now have the privilege of representing this same community in Parliament is something that I will carry with enormous pride and humility."

She added that her election should send a message about belonging and representation.

"For people who look like me, I hope they see themselves reflected in this place, and know that their path too belongs here," she said.

Later, at a victory rally alongside Labour Party deputy leader Lucy Powell, Abdi-Wali reiterated her commitment to tackling homelessness, saying people sleeping

rough should "know we have their backs".

Prime Minister Andy Burnham congratulated her on what he described as a "fantastic campaign" and said he looked forward to working with her.

Former prime minister Sir Keir Starmer also welcomed the result, describing Abdi-Wali as "a brilliant champion for our communities" who would make a "fantastic MP".

Nyeri, Malindi to offer full passport services

Continued From Page 7

Murkomen said preparations to upgrade the two offices were progressing. "We are well on course with decentralisation of passport registration and issuance, bringing this crucial document closer to where citizens live," Murkomen said.

He said the government would equip the existing offices in Nyeri and Malindi to provide full passport registration and issuance services.

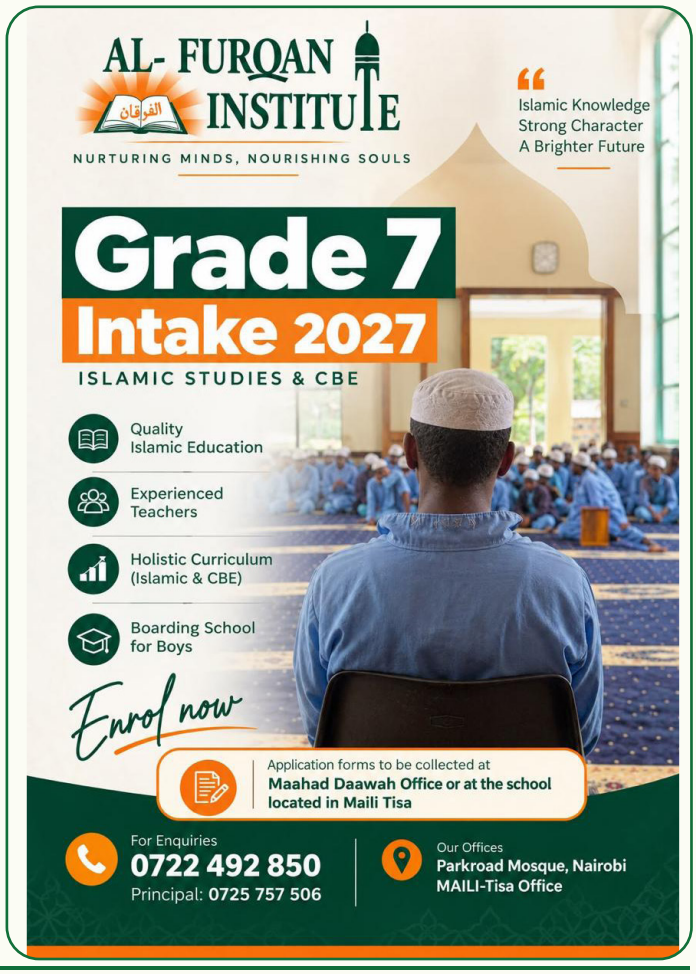
The expansion will add the two towns to the government's network of regional immigration offices, which currently operate in Mombasa, Kisumu, Eldoret, Kericho, Embu, Bungoma, Kisii, Nakuru and Garissa.

The meeting also discussed measures to support the government's overseas employment programme. Officials confirmed that the National Employment Authority had secured a dedicated desk at the Nairobi immigration offices to streamline processes for Kenyans seeking employment abroad.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry is pursuing measures to improve passenger movement at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), where the installation of electronic gates (e-gates) is under way.

Murkomen said the initiative was part of efforts to modernise border management and speed up passenger clearance.

The e-gates are expected to reduce queues as passenger numbers rise while improving the efficiency of immigration checks without compromising border security.



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