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*Most Merciful Art Thou
Ya ALLAH...
forgive us and accept the prayer of every repentant sinner,
lead us upon the right path when we stray,
for verily Thine Mercy overtaketh Thine Wrath!
Oh Creator and Sustainer let there be Peace,
Love, and Truth on Earth! Our Lord, save the
Ummah and relieve the oppressed!
Aameen.*

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RUMASA BINT MILHAN (UMM SULAYM)

The first women of Madinah to become Muslim

Even before Islam was introduced to Madinah, Rumaysa was known for her excellent character, the power of her intellect and her independent attitude of mind. She was known by various names including Rumaysa and Ghumaysa, but these were possibly nicknames. One historian says that her real name was Sahlah but later she was popularly known as Umm Sulaym. She was first married to Malik ibn an-Nadr and her son by this marriage was the famous Anas ibn Malik, one of the great companions of the Prophet (ﷺ).

Umm Sulaym was one of the first women of Madinah to accept Islam. She was influenced by the refined, dedicated and persuasive Musab ibn Umayr who was sent out as the first missionary or ambassador of Islam by the noble Prophet (ﷺ). Umm Sulaym's decision to accept Islam was made without the knowledge or consent of her husband, Malik ibn an-Nadr. He was absent from Madinah at the time and when he returned he felt some change had come over his household and asked his wife: "what happen to you?" She said, "I (now) believe in ALLAH and the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ)." Malik was not pleased especially when his wife went on to announce her acceptance of Islam in public. Umm Sulaym's husband was now furious. He shouted at her: "Don't corrupt my son." "I am not corrupting him," she replied firmly. Her husband then left the house and it is reported that he was set upon by an enemy of his and was killed. The news shocked but apparently did not upset Umm Sulaym greatly. When it was known that Umm Sulaym had become a widow, one man, Zayd ibn Sahl, known as Abu Talhah, resolved to become engaged to her before anyone else did. He was rather confident that Umm Sulaym would not pass him over for another. He was after all a strong and virile person who was quite rich and who possessed an imposing house that was much admired. He was an accomplished horseman and a skilful archer and, moreover, he belonged to the same clan as Umm Sulaym, the Banu Najjar.

Abu Talhah proceeded to Umm Sulaym's house. On the way he recalled that she had been influenced by the preaching of Musab ibn Umayr and had become a Muslim. Abu Talhah reached Umm Sulaym's house. He asked and was given permission to enter. Her son Anas was present. Abu Talhah explained why he had come and asked for her hand in marriage. "A man like you, Abu Talhah," she said, "is not (easily) turned away. But I shall never marry you while you are a kafir, an unbeliever." Abu Talhah thought she was trying to put him off and that perhaps she had already preferred

someone wealthier and more influential. He said to her: "What is it that really prevents you from accepting me, Umm Sulaym? Is it the yellow and the white metals (gold and silver)?" "Gold and silver?" she asked somewhat taken aback and in a slightly censoring tone. "Yes," he said. "I swear to you, Abu Talhah, and I swear to ALLAH that if you accept Islam, I shall be pleased to accept you as a husband, without any gold or silver. I shall consider your acceptance of Islam as my mahr." "Who shall instruct me in Islam?" asked Abu Talhah. "I shall," Umm Sulaym replied. "Utter the declaration of truth and testify that there is no god but ALLAH and that Muhammad (ﷺ) is the Messenger of ALLAH. Then go to your house, destroy your idol and throw it away." Abu Talhah left and reflected deeply on what Umm Sulaym had said. He came back to her beaming with happiness. "I have taken your advice to heart. I declare that there is no god but ALLAH and I declare that Muhammad is the Messenger of ALLAH." Umm Sulaym and Abu Talhah were married. Anas, her son, was pleased and the Muslims would say: "We have never yet heard of a mahr that was more valuable and precious than that of Umm Sulaym for she made Islam her mahr."

Umm Sulaym was pleased and delighted with her new husband who placed his unique energies and talents in the service of Islam. He was one of the seventy three men who swore allegiance to the Prophet (ﷺ) at the second Pledge of Aqabah. With him, according to one report, was his wife Umm Sulaym. Two other women, Nusaybah bint Kab and Asma bint Amr witnessed Aqabah and took the oath of allegiance. Umm Sulaym herself was noted for her great courage and bravery. During the Battle of Uhud, she carried a dagger in the folds of her dress. She gave water to and tended the wounded and she made attempts to defend the Prophet (ﷺ) when the tide of battle was turning against him. At the Battle of Khandaq, the Prophet (ﷺ) saw her carrying a dagger and he asked her what she was doing with it. She said: "It is to fight those who desert You (ﷺ)." "May ALLAH grant you satisfaction in that," replied the Prophet (ﷺ). In the face of adversity, Umm Sulaym displayed a unique calmness and strength. Umm Sulaym had another son whose name was Abdullah. A few days after she gave birth, she sent Anas with the baby and a bag of dates to the Prophet (ﷺ). The Prophet (ﷺ) placed the baby on his lap. He crushed the dates in his mouth and put some in the baby's mouth. The baby sucked the dates with relish and the Prophet said: "The Ansar are only fond of dates." Abdullah eventually grew up and had seven children all of whom memorized the Quran. Umm Sulaym was a model Muslim, a model wife and mother. Her belief in ALLAH was strong and uncompromising. She was not prepared to endanger her faith and the upbringing of her children for wealth and luxury, however abundant and tempting. She was devoted to the Prophet (ﷺ) and dedicated her son Anas to his service. She took the responsibility of educating her children and she played an active part in public life, sharing with the other Muslims the hardships and the joys of building a community and living for the pleasure of ALLAH.

Al-Kausar

FULL STEAM AHEAD: SA DOWNGRADE OF EMBASSY IN ISRAEL

BY IQBAL JASSAT

Cynics may call it politicking to garner Muslim votes for the ruling African National Congress (ANC) on the eve of South Africa's crucial May 2019 national elections.

Others, especially from Israel's local pressure groups, may suggest that the ANC has caved into partisan politics without any regard for Jewish interests. Some within these Zionist formations may even adopt an extremely narrow stance by suggesting that the Ramaphosa presidency is antisemitic.

Whatever may be the perceptions held by diverse groups including opposition parties, the fact is that the ANC-led government has finally taken the leap to give practical effect to its conference resolution to downgrade relations with Israel.

It is sixteen months since December 2017 when the ANC unanimously resolved "to immediately and unconditionally downgrade the South African Embassy in Israel to a Liaison Office".

Far from being partisan or having any hint of anti-Jewish bias, the move is in line with South Africa's human rights driven foreign policy ethos. I'm referring to the announcement made by South Africa's International Relations Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, that downgrade of ties with Israel is running full steam ahead. According to Sisulu, the immediate effect of it is that the SA ambassador has been permanently withdrawn from Tel Aviv. She is quoted as follows: "We are in the process of following the downgrade resolution of the ruling party and stage one has been completed. "Our ambassador is back in South Africa and we will not be replacing him. Our liaison office in Tel Aviv will have no political mandate, no trade mandate, and no development co-operation mandate."

Sisulu's comments reflect a vigorous commitment by the ANC to demonstrate its solidarity with Palestine's freedom struggle.

To date many South African human rights and foreign-based activists have accused the ANC-led government of talking left but walking right. The critique goes back to Mandela's presidency and continued throughout the Mbeki and Zuma administrations. None of them had given effect to long standing ANC policy-positions on Palestinian solidarity despite being opposed to Israeli colonialism.

Their defensive arguments in justification for maintaining ties with Israel had always been that the ANC is guided by the Palestinian Administration (PA). Since Fatah is the dominant player in the PA and given the ANC's historic alliance with Fatah when both liberation movements shared trenches during their freedom struggles, it was "explained" as realpolitik.

The other explanation - again leaning on Fatah, has been that to allow itself to play a meaningful role as a mediator between Palestine and Israel, the SA government had to have diplomatic relations with the Zionist regime.

Sisulu's announcement has not only demonstrated that notwithstanding close relations with Fatah, it also recognizes the role and colossal impact Hamas has had in reshaping Palestinian resistance. Implicit in her message is that articulating support for Palestinian rights requires strident moves. As she explained, downgrading is merely "stage one". More is to follow which ultimately may result in the Israeli ambassador packing up and departing.

The significance of this decision cannot be downplayed. Especially because it goes into effect at a time when Fatah's leadership is exposed as collaborating with Israel's notorious security forces and siege of Gaza; Arab autocratic regimes are "normalizing" ties with the Occupier; Netanyahu has confirmed Israel's apartheid status and dismissed any "hope" of an independent Palestinian state; Trump has played roughshod with International Conventions and UN Resolutions.

Though the decision may not have an immediate impact on Palestinian lives given the fascism associated with Netanyahu's bloody violence, it marks a significant escalation for the global campaign to isolate Israel via the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement.

It displays the moral values of a majority of South Africans and the integrity of the decision to downgrade sets a new standard for the African continent.

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HAZRAT KHALID SHAH BAWA ARRIVES IN S.A.

Hazrat Khalid Shah t set his blessed foot for the very first time in South Africa in 1966. The Chishti Sabri Silsila in South Africa was already founded in 1944 with the blessing of Hazrat Iqbal Sha t by his mureed, Janab Ibrahim Madari Chisht Sabri. He also visited South Africa in 1972, 1976, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984.

During his visits to South Africa, thousands of people became his mureeds. He also delivered many inspiring talks throughout his visit. The Chishti Sabri Silsila spread throughout South Africa, including Botswana and Lesotho. Hazrat showed a great deal of concern towards his mureeds and well- wishers. He treated the poor and the rich alike and feared none besides Allah. Many respected people and Ulema used to seek Hazrat's advice on

various issues. There are numerous Karamats or miracles attributed to him. During Hazrat Khalid Shah's ﷺ latter years his health began to deteriorate. His mureeds persuaded him to come to South Africa to receive expert medical advice, but in spite of all serious attempts to provide the best medical treatment, the Will and Divine Wisdom of Allah took its course. On the 16th of May 1984 (15 SHABAAN 1404 A.H.) Hazrat Khalid Shah ﷺ left this mundane world for the Akhirah.

He is buried in Watville Benoni (South Africa) where the Urs is held every year in his honour attracting many devotees from all parts of the country. A beautiful Mazaar Shareef is being built over his Qabar Shareef.

SULTAN-UL-ARIFEEN HAZRAT BAYAZEED BUSTAMI



HOW A SAINT MIRACULOUSLY CONVERTED AN ENTIRE CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION . . .

Hazrat Abu Yazeed Bustami ؑ was in Basra. One night he had a dream in which a voice told him "Tomorrow is the Eid of the Nasaara (Christians). Go after the Fajr Prayer (morning prayer), with wuzu (ablution) to a certain church where they will be having their service. Perhaps Allah will show you something wonderful." The next day he goes and enters the church. Before the service can begin the priest announces: "We cannot start our service because there is a Muhammadi (a follower of Muhammad ﷺ amongst us." The congregation said: 'O Father, how do you know?' He answered: "The followers of Muhammad ﷺ can be noticed by the effect of Sujood (prostration) on their faces!". Then he addressed Abu Yazeed ؑ and said : "Get Out!" Abu Yazeed replied : "I shall not get out until Allah decides between us!" The Priest says: "Very well. In that case I shall pose to you several questions. If you can answer these, I and my entire congregation will accept Islam. But if you fail to answer, then your dead body shall leave this room!" "Ask whatever you wish," says the great Buzrug (religious person), "and Insha-Allah I shall answer."

The Priest put forward his questions:

Allah Cast upon Abu Yazeed special tranquillity and he began to answer: (All answers from the Holy Qur'aan)

1- What is that One thing which has no Second?

1-The One without a Second is Allah (Qul -Huwallahu Ahad).

2-What are those Two things which have no Third?

2-The Two things without a Third are Day and Night.

3-What are those Three things which have no Fourth?

3 -The Three things without a Fourth are three incidents between Nabi Moosa ؑ and Khizr ؑ as mentioned in Surah Kahf (first - Hazrat Khizr damaged the boat of some poor people, second - He killed a young boy, third - He rebuilt a wall which was about to collapse.)

4- What are those Four things which have no Fifth?

4-The Four things with no Fifth are the Holy Qur'aan, Zaboor (Psalm), Injeel (Bible) and Torah.

5- What are those Five things which have no Sixth?

5- The Five things with no Sixth are the Five daily Salaah. (FIVE DAILY PRAYERS OF MUSLIMS.)

6 -What are those Six things which have no Seventh?

6 -The Six things with no Seventh are 6 days in which Allah created the heavens and earth. The Christians say Allah rested on the seventh day, but the Quraan rejects this: "And indeed we created the heavens and the earth and whatever lies between them in 6 days, and We are not overtaken in the least by tiredness." (Surah Qaaf (50) verse 38)

7- What are those Seven things which have no Eighth?

7- The Seven things with no Eighth are the Seven Heavens.

8- What are those Eight things which have no Ninth?

8- The Eight things with no Ninth are eight Angels who keep up the Throne of Allah.

9- What are those Nine things which have no Tenth?

9- The Nine things with no Tenth are the nine signs Allah gave Moosa ؑ against Firoun (viz. Famine, Plague of Locusts, Lice, Frogs, Blood, Epidemic, Loss in Crops, Staff of Moosa ؑ and

Shining Hand.

10- What are those Ten things which can be multiplied indefinitely?

10- The Ten things which can multiply indefinitely : The Qur'aan states: "One good deed is multiplied by ten and these in turn are multiplied by Allah as much as He likes, for whomever He wishes."

11 -Who are the Eleven brothers?

11 -The Eleven brothers were the brothers of Hazrat Yusuf ؑ.

12 -What is that miracle that comprises of Twelve things?

12 - The miracle consisting of Twelve things was when Moosa ؑ struck the mountain with his staff and from there flowed twelve springs.

13- Who is that family of Thirteen which was informed by one of their members that they are thirteen?

13 -The family of Thirteen were the family of Yusuf ؑ. He saw in a dream and told his father: "I have seen the sun and the moon and eleven stars making sajda (prostrating) before me."

14- Which Fourteen things spoke to Allah?

14- The Fourteen things which spoke to Allah:- Seven Heavens and Seven levels of Earth. When Allah wanted to create them He said: "Come willingly or by force..." They answered : "O Allah we will come willingly". (Surah Ha Meem Sajda (41) verse 11)

15 -What breathes but has no Rooh (Soul)?

15- The thing that breathes without Rooh is the Dawn - the Qur'aan says; "By the Dawn, when it breathes." (Surah Takweer (81) verse 18)

16- What was that grave which carried its inmate around?

16- The grave is the huge fish which carried Hazrat Yunus ؑ around.

17- Who are those people who spoke the truth and went to Jahannum (Hell) and those who lied, yet they went to Jannat (Paradise)?

17- The Jews and Christians accused each other of having no proper Deen / Religion? (Surah Baqarah (2) verse 113). They spoke the truth but will go to Jahannum. And the brothers of Yusuf ؑ after dumping him in a Well said to their father: "A wolf had devoured him." They lied, but after making taubah they will go to Jannat.

18- Which creatures did Allah create without parents?

18- Allah created Adam ؑ, the Malaika (Angels), the Ram of Hazrat Ibrahim ؑ which he slaughtered in place of Hazrat Ismail ؑ and the camel of Nabi Salih ؑ, which came out of a mountain without parents.

19- What is that tree which has twelve branches, every branch has thirty leaves, every leaf has five fruit, three in the shade and two in the sun?

19- The tree is the Islamic year. Twelve branches, i.e. 12 months, Thirty leaves, i.e. 30 days of a month. Five Fruit, i.e. 5 daily Salaah. three in the shade, i.e. Maghrib (upon sunset), Esha (2 hours after sunset), & Fajr (hour before sunrise); two in the Sun, i.e. Zohar (midday) and Asr (late afternoon) prayers .

20 -What is that thing which Allah made with his own hands?

20 -The Asaa' (Staff) of Hazrat Moosa (Moses) ﷺ

21- Who is that person whose plots and plans are stronger than shaitaan (devil)?

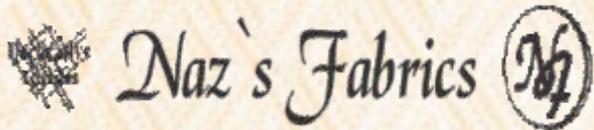
21- It is a woman. Her plots and plans are stronger than shaitaan. The Quraan says: "Indeed the plotting of you women are most severe." (Surah Yusuf (12) verse 28) and about the plot of Shaitaan, Allah says: "Verily the plot of Shaitaan is weak." (Surah Nisaa (4) Verse 76)

After answering these questions Abu Yazeed says : "O Priest! You have asked me many questions. Now I wish to ask you . "What is the key to Paradise?" The Priest is silent. The congregation implores him: "O father you asked him so many questions all of which he answered. He is asking you only one - answer him!"

The Father says : "I know the answer like I know my own mother! But I am worried about you people!" They say : "Father, answer him, and have no fear for us. We are right behind you."

The Priest takes a deep breath and says : "The key to Paradise is **LA ILAH HA ILLALLAHU MUHAMMADUR RASOOLULLAH!**"

The whole congregation in one voice, then recited this Kalimah and all became Muslims at the hands of Sultan-ul-Aarifeen Hazrat Bayazeed Bustami ﷺ.



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PROGRAMME / UHLELO

<p>09h00</p> <p>Mohawala Nakhbosa (Dobos March)</p> <p>HODQAALA 37CP, 35H SA DANZEM 3/5</p> <p>CONTRIBUTORS FROM THE 17CP, 35H SA DANZEM 3/5 TO THE SAABERIE CENTRE</p>	<p>10h00</p> <p>DITshuto Ka Bana</p> <p>ITEMS TO BE PRESENTED BY SAABERIE CHISHTY DAWAH CENTRE LEARNERS</p>	<p>11h00</p> <p>Puo Ka Moeti Warona</p> <p>LECTURE BY HONOURABLE GUESTS</p>	<p>12h30</p> <p>Bana Bantleturwa Likhan Tsa Tlotla Le Kamebelo</p> <p>PRESENTATION OF AWARDS</p>	<p>13h00</p> <p>Jumuaah Salaah Friday Prayer</p> <p>FOLLOWED BY SALAMATI SALAAM DINI - JUMUA THIMPELO YA YECHEBA (JUMUA ELO)</p>
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Al-Kausar

SALAATUT TASBEEH

VIRTUES OF SALAATUT TASBEEH

Salaatut Tasbeeh is a very important form of salaah, as is evident from several ahaadith, wherein Rasulullah ﷺ (enjoined it as a matter of great kindness and favour and stressed on its importance. As such, the Ulamaa, Jurists, Muhadditheen, and Sufis throughout the centuries have been particular in offering this Salaah. Sayyiduna Abdullah Ibn Abbas ؓ (has narrated that he was once informed by Rasulullah ﷺ, "O Abbas, Should I not present to you, should I not confer to you, should I not inform you of such an act, which if you practice, Allah I will forgive all your sins, whether old or new, intentional or unintentional, minor or major, open or secret. (After describing the method of performing this salaah) Nabi ﷺ stated, "If possible, you should offer this salaah once everyday, and if you cannot perform it daily, then offer it on every Friday (weekly), or once a month, or once a year or at least once in your lifetime." [Abu Daawud]

METHOD OF PERFORMING SALAATUT TASBEEH

This is a four (4) Rakaat Salaah with one Salaam. After Takbeer-e-Tahreemah (the first Allahu Akbar) and Sana read the following **Tasbeeh** 15 times:

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

"Subhanalahi wal Hamdulillahi wa laa ilaha illal laahu wallaahu Akbar."

Thereafter reciting Ta'Awuz and Tasmiya read Surah Fatiha, and any other Surah, then read the above **Tasbeeh** 10 times before going into Ruku:

Then go to Ruku. Read the tasbeeh of Ruku "Subhana Rabbi'al Azeem" thrice and read the above **Tasbeeh** 10 times.

Stand up from Ruku and after saying "Sami Allahu liman Hamida - Rabbana lakal Hamd", read the above **Tasbeeh** 10 times.

Then go into Sajdah. After "Subhana Rabbi'al 'Ala" thrice read the above **Tasbeeh** 10 times.

Between the two Sajdahs, in the posture of Jalsa read the above **Tasbeeh** 10 times.

Then go for the second Sajdah. After "Subhana Rabbi'al 'Ala" thrice read the above **Tasbeeh** 10 times.

This will amount to 75 times in one Rakaat.

The remaining three Rakaats should be completed in the same manner and the reciting of the **Tasbeeh** will amount to 300 in the entire 4 Rakaats Salaah.

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Recommended Wazifas for Shabe Baraat

After Asr Salaah
Recite 70 Times:

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ رَبِّي مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ ط
"Astagh Firullah Rabbi Min Kulli Zam Bin Wa A'tubu Elay"

Thereafter Recite 70
Times Durood Shareef

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَبَارِكْ وَسَلِّمْ ط
"Allahumma Swalle Ala Muhammadew Wa Ala 'ale Muhammadew Wa Barik Wa Sallim"

Thereafter
Recite 70 Times

يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ .
"Yaa Hayyu Yaa Qayyoom"

Just before Sunset
Recite 40 Times

لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْعَظِيمِ ط
"Laa Hawla Walaa Quwata Illa Billa Hil Aliyeel Azeem"

Recite the last 3 verses of
Surah Hashr once:

Bismillah Hir Rahmanir Raheem
Huwal Laahul Lazi Laailaaha illaahu,
A'alimul Ghaibi Wash Shahadati Huwar
Rahmanur Raheem-Huwal Laahul Lazi
Laailaaha illaahu, Al Malikul Quddus
Salaamul Mo'minul Muhayminul Azizul
Jabbaarul Mutakabbir, Subhaanal Laahi
Amma Yushrikoon. Huwal Laahul Khaaliqul
Baari-ul Musawwiru Lahul Asthma-ul-Husna
Yusabbihu Lahu Mafis Samaawaati Wal
Ard Wahuwal Azizul Hakeem.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ط
هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ط عِلْمُ
الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ ط
هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ط الْمَلِكُ
الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيَّمِنُ
الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ ط سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا
يُشْرِكُونَ . هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَالِقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ
لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى ط يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ط وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ .

Recite the Dua for Shabe Baraat
as many times as possible

(Allahumma) A'oozu bi Afwika Min Iqaabika
Wa A'oozu Biradaka Min Sakhatika Wa A'oozu
Bika Minka Jalla Wajhuka Laa Ohsi Sanaa'an
Alayka Anta Kama Asnaita Ala Nafsik.

O Allah I seek protection in Your forgiveness
from Your wrath and I seek shelter in Your
pleasure from Your displeasure and I seek
safety with You from You. Glory be to You
I cannot fully praise You as You have
praised Yourself.

(اللَّهُمَّ) أَعُوذُ بِعَفْوِكَ مِنْ عِقَابِكَ
وَ أَعُوذُ بِرِضَاكَ مِنْ سَخَطِكَ
وَ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْكَ جَلَّ وَجْهَكَ
لَا أَحْصِي ثَنَاءً عَلَيْكَ أَنْتَ
كَمَا أَثْنَيْتَ عَلَيَّ نَفْسِكَ ط

ETIQUETTE AND VIRTUES OF VISITING GRAVES



Generally, visiting graves is mustahab (recommended) for men and permissible for women. Visiting the graves of saintly people, parents and close relatives is considered mandooab (desirable). It is permissible and possible for women to visit graves as long as they do not cry out, wail, behave hysterically and respect graves too much, which can cause mischief. This is because the Prophet ﷺ advised a woman who was wailing at her child's grave to endure; yet he did not forbid her to visit the grave. (Bukhari, Janaiz, 2, Ahkam II; Muslim, Janaiz, 15). In addition, it is narrated that Hazrat Aisha visited her brother's, Abdurrahman b. Abi Bakr's, grave. (Tirmidhi, Janaiz, 61).

The Prophet r prohibited visiting graves during a period of time when belief in fate was not yet settled and traditions of the era of ignorance were still being practiced. However, later he permitted it. The following is stated in a hadith:

"I had prohibited visiting graves for you. From now on you can visit graves". (Muslim, Janaiz, 106; Adahi, 37; Abu Dawud janaiz, 77; Ashriba, 7; Tirmidhi, Janaiz, 7; Nasai, Janaiz, 100; Ibn Majah, Janaiz, 47; Ahmad b. Hanbal, I, 147, 452, III, 38, 63, 237, 250, V, 35, 355, 357). Hadiths that state that the Prophet cursed on women who visited graves too often (Tirmidhi, Salat, 21; Janaiz, 61; Nasai, Janaiz, 104; Ibn Maja, Janaiz, 49) belong to the period of time when visiting graves were prohibited. Tirmidhi stated it clearly (Tirmidhi, Janaiz, 60). Hazrat Aisha and Ibn Abdiiber agreed on it.

According to the sound view of Hanafis, it is permissible for women to visit graves as long as they do not display extreme behaviors such as wailing and behaving hysterically. This is because the permission mentioned in hadiths applies to women too. (Tirmidhi, Janaiz, 60, 61; Ibn Abidin, Radd al-Mukhtar, Istanbul, 1984, II, 242).

It has been observed in the stream of history that graves were also visited to ask for help from the dead and even to worship them.

This is the reason why visiting the Prophet ﷺ's grave was prohibited in the early years of Islam. Jews and Christians made the graves of people, whom they considered saints, place of worship for themselves. In the Era of Ignorance, people used to prostrate before graves and worship idols. Idolatry started with respect and revering to eminent people's graves and eventually, that respect turned into worshipping idols. The aim of Islam was to place the principle of tawhid (accepting Allah as the unique Creator and worshipping to Him only) in people's hearts. Previously, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had prohibited visiting graves because he found it risky for this reason. However, when the creed of tawhid was settled in people's hearts and

well comprehended by Muslims, he permitted people to visit graves.

As a matter of fact, there are benefits in visiting graves both for the living and the dead. When the Messenger of Allah r was on the expedition to Makkah, he visited his mother Amina's grave and cried, and made the people around him cry too, and he permitted Muslims to visit graves. (Ibn Majah, Janaiz, 48; Nasai, Janaiz, 101; Muslim, Janaiz, 36; Abu Dawud, Janaiz, 77). That permission and also encouragement of visiting graves are available in well-known hadiths. (Ibn Majah, Janaiz, 47; Tirmidhi, Janaiz, 60).

Benefits of Visiting Graves

a) It reminds one of death and afterlife, and makes him draw a lesson from it for his afterlife. (Muslim, Janaiz, 108; Tirmidhi, Janaiz, 59; Ibn Majah, Janaiz 47-48; Ahmad b. Hanbal, Musnad, I, 145).

b) It directs one to asceticism and taqwa (God-Consciousness). It prevents over-ambitiousness for worldly life and committing harams. It directs one to commit good deeds. (Ibn Majah, Janaiz, 47).

c) Visiting graves of saintly people - especially that of our Prophet ﷺ - refreshes one's soul and helps to evoke supreme feelings in them. It is mandooab to travel to the graves of our Prophet and Allah's saintly slaves in order to visit them. The Prophet r states in a hadith: "Whoever visits me after I die, it is as if he visited me when I was alive." (Mansur Ali Nasif, at-Taj, al-Jamiu'l Usul, II, 190).

d) Visiting graves helps the strengthening of one's relations with his past, religious culture and history.

Benefits of Visiting Graves for the Dead

a) Graves of parents, other relatives and friends are visited especially in order to pray for the peace of their souls and for their salvation. The fact that thawabs gained from good deeds that are performed on behalf of the dead will reach to them is stated in hadiths and determined by the consensus of Islamic scholars. When visiting the dead, one prays for the peace of their souls, reads the Quran and thawabs gained from those good deeds are donated to them. It is thawab to plant a tree at one's grave. There are hadiths stating that a tree planted at a grave will be a reason to ease the dead person's agony. It is makrooh (abominable) to put a wreath on graves as Christians do.

This Quranic verse indicates the fact that prayers and supplication made for the sake of the dead people's souls will be beneficial for them: "Our Lord! Forgive us, and our brethren who came before us into the Faith, and leave not, in our hearts, rancor (or sense of injury) against those who have believed." (al-Hashr, 59:10). There are many hadiths on the issue (Ahmad b. Hanbal, Musnad, II, 509; VI, 252; Ibn Majah, Adab).

b) The dead hear the living ones: It is stated in the hadiths that those in graves hear the ones who speak while visiting them and respond to their salutations. As narrated by Abdullah b. Umar, the Prophet ﷺ addressed the corpses of Quraish people lying on the ground after the battle of Badr: "Have you comprehended that the punishment the Lord promised to you was true?" Upon this, Hazrat Umar said to him: "O Messenger of Allah, are you addressing those emotionless corpses?" And the Messenger of Allah said: "You do not hear more than those do. But they cannot answer." (Ahmad b. Hanbal, II, 121).

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SHABAAN

MOULANA SHAH FAISAL KHAN QADRI MISBAHI

Q1) What is Shabe Baraat?

A1) Shabe Baraat is a special night which comes in the month of Shabaan.

Let us view some of the magnificence's in the month of Shabaan.

Describing the significance of Shabaan, the Prophet of Rahma, the intercessor of the Ummah, the owner of Jannah has said, "Shabaan is my month and the month of Ramadhaan is the month of Allah." [Al Jaami-us-Saghir]

There are 5 Arabic letters in the word Shabaan. Sheen, Ain, Baa, Alif and Noon. His saintly Highness, Sayyiduna Ghous-ul-Aazam ؑ has explained these 5 alphabets of Shabaan as: Sheen stands for Sharaf (nobility), Ain for Uluww (Ascension), Baa for Birr (kindness and benevolence), Alif for Ulfat (affection) and Noon for Noor (light). So these are the virtues with which Allah bestows His Servants in this blessed month.

In this month, the doors for good deeds are opened, blessings are showered, wrongdoings are forgiven, expiation is paid for sins and Salaah is invoked extensively upon the Beloved Prophet (ﷺ) and this is the month of sending Salaat upon the most exalted Prophet (ﷺ). [Ghunya-tut-Talibin p 341-342, vol 1] Sayyiduna Anas bin Malik ؑ has stated, "When the blessed companions saw the crescent of Shabaa, they would busy themselves in reciting the Holy Quraan and paying Zakaah so

that the weak and the poor may also make preparation for the fasting of the month of Ramadhaan. The governor would summon the prisoners to enforce sentence to those who were to be sentenced (by Shari'ah) and set the rest free. Businessmen would pay their debts and collect dues. (In this way they would become free for worship before the appearance of the moon of Ramadhaan) and as soon as the moon of Ramadhaan appeared, they would perform Ghusal and (some) would take part in the I'tikaaf for the whole month." [Ghunya-tut-Talibin]

Sayyidatuna Ayesha Siddiqah ؓ has narrated that the Holy Prophet r said, Jibraeel u came to me and said, 'This is the 15th night of Shabaan. On this night Allah frees as many people from the fire as the number of the hair growing on the sheep of the Banu Kalb, but He does not have mercy on those associating partners with Allah, those with malice in their hearts (against someone), those who break family ties, those wearing clothes dangling down the ankles (as a sign of pride), those disobeying parents and habitual drinkers'." [Shu'abul Imaan vol 3 pg 383 Hadith 3837]

Sayyidatuna Ayesha Siddiqah ؓ stated, "I heard the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) saying Allah opens the portals of mercy in four nights, (especially)

1. Night of Eid-ul-Adha
2. Night of Eid-ul-Fitr
3. 15th night of Sha'ban- as in this night the names of those destined to die that year, provision of sustenance of people and the names of those who shall perform Haj that year are inscribed.
4. Night of Arafah (the night between the 8th and 9th Zil Haj) until the Fajr Azaan. [Ad Dur-rul-Mansur p 402, vol 7]

VISIT THE QABRASTAAN ON THIS NIGHT

Hazrat Ayesha Siddiqah (radi Allahu anha) reports: "One night, which was the 15th of Shabaan, I did not find the Holy Prophet (sallal laahu alaihi wasallam) in the house so I went in search of him. After a long search, I found him in Baqiah (the cemetery of Madinah) offering Du'a for the deceased and praying for their forgiveness". (Baihaqi) A special effort must be made to visit the cemetery

during this night and pray for the deceased buried therein, as the Holy Prophet (sallal laahu alaihi wasallam) was reported as having visited the cemetery on this night and spending a long time therein, lamenting, reading and praying for the deceased.

Fullfill this important Sunnah and earn its reward !



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15TH SHABAAN... Another Chance!

فَسْبِ بِرَأْسِ
مُبَارَكِ

Allah ﷻ, through His grace and bounty, has afforded mankind numerous opportunities of gaining closeness to Him and turning to Him in repentance. These opportunities enable man to undo the wrongs which he may have committed since his last repentance. There is a famous Hadeeth in which ﷺ said that one Ramadaan to the next, and one Friday to the next are means of atonement for the wrongs which were committed in-between. The 15th night of Shabaan is one such opportunity. There are several Ahadeeth on the virtues of this night. Some of them are:

Hadrat A'ishah ؓ narrates that she heard Rasulullah ﷺ saying: "Allah Ta'ala opens goodness during four nights: the nights of Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr, the night of the 15th of Shabaan, and the night of Arafat until the adhaan ." (Imam Suyuti in Durr Manthur)

One of the special features of this night is that no sooner the sun sets, the special attention and focus of Allah Ta'ala descends from the heavens and an announcement is made: "Is there anyone seeking forgiveness so that I may forgive him? Is there anyone seeking sustenance so that I may provide him with sustenance? Is there anyone in difficulty so that I may remove his difficulty?" In short, the rains of mercy continue pouring down for the entire night until the time of fajr.

What should we do in this night?

This question is beautifully answered in a lengthy Hadeeth of Hadrat A'ishah ؓ. The gist of which is that when she realized that Rasulullah ﷺ was not sleeping next to her, she got up to see where he was. She found him in prostration making the following Dua:

"My body as well as my inner self have prostrated before You. My heart has brought Iman (faith) in You. I place before You my hand which I used to transgress against my self. O the Exalted, who is yearned for at the time of every enormous task! O the Exalted, forgive me my major sins. My face prostrated before the Being who created it, and granted it the faculty of hearing and seeing."

We learn from the above Hadeeth that one should engage in Salaah and Dua. Both, Salaah and Dua, are the foundations of all our acts of worship. Salaah is considered to be the apex of all acts of worship while Dua is considered to be the core and essence of all acts of worship. This is further explained in the following narration of Hadrat Ali ؓ:

"When it is the night of the 15th of Shabaan, stand up in worship at night and fast during the day. Surely Allah ﷻ descends to the lowest heavens with the setting of the sun and announces: "Is

there anyone seeking forgiveness so that I may forgive him? Is there anyone seeking sustenance so that I may provide him with sustenance? Is there anyone in difficulty so that I may remove his difficulty? Is there anyone, is there anyone?" This continues till the break of dawn. (Imam Suyuti in Durr Manthur)

Apart from Salah and Dua, one may also engage in the remembrance of Allah Ta'ala (Zikr) and the recitation of the Quran. If one is unable to do any of this, the least one should try to do is offer the Isha and Fajr salahs with congregation so that one may earn the reward of spending the entire night in worship.

May Allah ﷻ inspire all of us to take maximum benefit from this blessed night, Aameen

Are you going to grab this opportunity?

Maybe we have heard the words "another chance" from our kind and loving parents on many occasions. Perhaps when we did not do well at school or Madrasah or even when we did some wrong, we were given a second chance to rectify ourselves. Our Most Loving, Kind and Merciful Creator, Allah Ta'ala Who is Rahmaan, Raheem and Kareem on this auspicious night is saying to us, "O my servant (abd) come towards me even if you are filled with sins from head to toe. My doors are always open. On this night, I give you "a reminder", "another chance" to repent. Come, my servant, even if your sins equal the pebbles in the ocean! I remind you tonight that this is the 15th of Shabaan, the Night of Freedom, the night of removing sins through taubah. Beseech my forgiveness my servant, I will forgive you. Come make taubah and grab this other chance to change."

Hadrat Maalik Bin Dinaar ؓ got his "second chance", his "wake up call" on the 15th of Shabaan. He slept in an intoxicated state that night and he saw a fearful dream in which he was shown the plight of those that disobey Allah ﷻ. His daughter, who had passed away before him, admonished him in this dream, with the verse of the Qur'aan, "Has the time not come for those wrongdoers to fear?" (Surah Al Hadeed, verse 16)

Dear Reader! Has our time not come?

Let us take this chance afforded to us by our Creator and take the bold step of change or reformation. Give up all sins and become the beloved (wali) of Allah ﷻ.

May Allah ﷻ grant us the Taufeeq of using this night to our advantage and saving ourselves from the fire of Jahannum with sincere Taubah, Aameen.



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How To! KEEP THE SKIN HYDRATED

COMPILED BY HASINA BEGUM SAYED



There may not be a fountain of youth, but the food we eat and how we treat ourselves can prevent or even reverse aging. Your body needs the right nutrients to fight off damage, and your skin is no different. Nutrients help the cells replicate and have more energy. Processed foods, stress, toxins and low-nutrient diets will accelerate aging. Protecting yourself from harmful chemicals while getting enough sleep, relaxation and exercise will all help you maintain a healthy glow.

1. Drink plenty of water.

Even with a small amount of dehydration, your body functions in a less optimal way. The instant you're dehydrated, it will take a toll on your skin, causing it to look dull, flaky, saggy and loose.

2. Eat foods with antioxidants.

Antioxidants are the best resources your body has to fight disease and aging by reducing damage and inflammation. Inflammation is a leading cause of wrinkle formation. Some of the best sources of antioxidants include:

- Blueberries
- Pomegranates
- Acai berries
- Goji berries
- Spinach
- Raspberries
- Nuts
- Seeds
- Purple grapes
- Dark chocolate (70% or higher of cocoa content)
- Organic green tea

3. Have a rainbow-colored plate of food.

Free radicals form in our bodies and cause major damage to our cell structures. The different nutrient-rich foods we eat neutralize them. You need to consume the widest variety of antioxidants you can to fight off the different kinds of free radicals. Think about what colors you've missed throughout the day, and try to incorporate them into your next meal.

4. Eat organic foods.

This curtails consumption of aging toxins.

5. Limit your sun exposure.

Small amounts of daily sun produce vitamin D and are beneficial, but too much sun will damage your skin. Don't forget to wear your sunglasses, and use zinc or titanium dioxide

6. Opt for natural skin products.

Many skincare products contain harsh chemicals. When choosing moisturizers or makeup, research the ingredients in them the best you can to confirm that they're safe.

7. Use non-toxic cleaning products.

It is imperative to limit exposure to toxic chemicals because the skin absorbs them.

8. Own a plant.

Indoor pollution levels can be even higher than outdoor levels. A plant in your home or by your desk at work will act as an air filter.

9. Get enough vitamin C.

A diet rich in vitamin C leads to fewer wrinkles. Researchers have found that skin exposed to vitamin C for long periods of time can produce up to eight times more collagen!

10. Avoid sugar.

It leads to damaged collagen and elastin, which cause wrinkles.

11. Eat healthy fats.

Incorporating foods such as avocados, olive oil, flax seeds, nuts and fish into your diet is important. The fatty acids are crucial for your skin to look youthful.

12. Cleanse your body.

A build up of toxins in the body due to the air, water and food causes damage to the body as well as aging. Detoxing by way of a juice cleanse is recommended for the body to be able to focus on energy production and eliminating toxins. Having a glass of water with squeezed lemon first thing in the mornings is also very cleansing.

13. Engage in activities that relieve stress.

High levels of stress will compromise your skin. Consider yoga or meditating. Eliminate problematic people and activities from your life. Confide in your friends and openly talk to them about your worries and troubles.

14. Sleep.

Your skin rejuvenates and repairs itself mostly while you are asleep. Make sure that you not only sleep for eight hours a night, but that it is quality sleep.

15. Exercise.

It increases the circulation of oxygen and nutrients and releases toxins through sweat, which leads to clearer, firmer skin. Remember to smile. It's the best exercise for your face.

NATIONAL INDEPENDENT HALAAL TRUST



"O Mankind ! Eat of the lawful and good things from what is in the earth, and follow not the evil. Surely he is an open enemy to you (S2: V168)



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BATTLE OF THE MINDS



BY FAIZEL KHAMKAR

One of the hidden messages which came out of the unmitigated brutal massacres in the attack on two mosques in New Zealand is the battle of the minds. A certain mindset created by the powers behind the scene together with the collusion of the media not only bought about an "us" and "them" mentality but did it in such a way of creating hate. Hate is a horrible characteristic however when that hate is fuelled by myths and false propaganda and the hater does not even know the reason for the hate than responsibility must be taken by those who fuelled this. Racism cannot be the cause of hate rather it is the propaganda tool to separate the "us" from "them".

The Muslims are the prime target of these attacks however hate creates a veil and the intended targets are randomly created even outside the Muslim community. An example is the brutal attack on a Brazilian learning institute where a number of innocent people were killed or injured. This attack took place a few days after the New Zealand massacre. The critical battle to be won is the removal of this mindset of hate which was created to suite the nefarious agendas of the sick minded fascist and bigots in the corridors of political power.

The first salvo in this war post the New Zealand massacre was fired by the political head of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern. In her address she denounced the "us" and "them" syndrome and motivated towards a hate free society. She went further by refusing to even acknowledge the identity of the perpetrator of this massacre confining him to the dustbin of history and

denying him the status of a hero of hatred which he craved for. The second salvo was fired by the Canadian President Justin Trudeau who not only denounced the act but reiterated the message of goodwill through peace and mutual respect. Canada who had also experienced this phenomenon of mass killings in a mosque in Quebec last year had been blessed with hindsight firsthand knowledge of the consequences of this hate psychology. Encouragingly both these leaders had for the first time introduced the term "islamaphobia" from a political platform. This term which had previously been swept under the carpet needed to be acknowledged in order to recognize a critical problem in the global community. In Modi's response to the attacks where he went to pains to avoid saying that the victims were Muslim and these were attacks were fanned by islamaphobia which not only exposed him also could not negate the positive effect of the addresses of the New Zealand and Canadian leaders.

The raising of awareness and the demonstration of the power of love and tolerance received a watershed mark in the pages of history. This does not mean that the scales have moved more favourably on the side of reason largely if we look at the addresses made by the mongers of hate such as Trump and Fraser Anning the Australian senator. What we are now really faced with is this battle of minds. The one side wanting to change the mind set which can lead to a better world for all and on the other side the determination to change the status quo and continue on the path of bringing the world to destruction. We should therefore not be surprised with any media campaign to discredit Trudeau and Ardern.

We have a serious task in assisting the voice of reason and opposing the voice of regression. The starting point must be in our attitudes and behaviour. The killing of over one hundred and fifty Fulani's by another tribe over a dispute over land (Muslim on Muslim) is not only unacceptable but furthers the agendas of the hate mongers. Our actions reflecting our communal responsibility which has been immense needs a new strategy which would serve as reminders of our clear message of peace, tolerance and community building which cannot be swept under the carpet. The need to enter into joint projects with other sectors of the community may be an idea which could be explored further. Our religion and its tenets need to be distributed as wide as possible to demystify it from those who may become targets for conscription to the army of hate. It is only through spreading this knowledge that a major weapon of the "supremist" will be countered. It will require us to go beyond the conventions around which we have built our comfort zone.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

BY FAKIR HASSEN

Rabat , MOROCCO – The Director-General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) Dr. Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri has called for New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. This came after Ardern received international acclaim for the compassion and dignity she had shown in the wake of the terrorist attack at two mosques in Christchurch that killed 50 worshippers and wounded dozens more. Altwajri said Ardern has proved to the world that terrorism has no religion and that it is a criminal act perpetrated by criminals, irrespective of their religious and ethnic affiliations.

New York, USA - United Nations Secretary General António Guterres has urged the international community to 'stand united against anti-Muslim hatred' following the mass shooting in New Zealand. In a statement, the UN's spokesperson said Guterres was shocked and appalled by the terrorist attack, recalling the "sanctity of mosques, and all places of worship. "He calls upon all people on this holy day for Muslims, to show signs of solidarity with the bereaved Islamic community. The Secretary-General reiterates the urgency of working better together globally to counter Islamophobia and eliminate intolerance and violent extremism in all its forms," the spokesperson added.

The Hague, NETHERLANDS - A mosque was attacked by members of the Islamophobic German group Pegida, who defaced the building with racist banners. Head of the mosque

Abdelhamid Taheri said the banners were hung up just after Fajr prayers. Taheri said security cameras around the mosque showed that the attack was carried out by three people linked to the far-right Islamophobic group Pegida. He added that he had also reported previous attacks to the police, but that they had continued. Islam is the second-largest religion in the Netherlands, with many believers living in The Hague.

Moscow, RUSSIA - The Muslim World League (MWL) concluded an international conference on religious peace and coexistence. Titled "Islam, a Message of Mercy and Peace," the three-day conference included participants from 43 countries, representing senior muftis, scholars, intellectuals, and politicians, as well as leaders from other faiths. Russia was chosen as a venue because it has been a model of religious and ethnic harmony in recent years, according to a MWL statement, which also quoted Russian officials as saying that Islam is an integral part of the country's culture. Muslims will make up 30 percent of Russia's population by 2034, the country's grand mufti Sheikh Ravil Gainutdin said. He recalled that during last year's Eid al-Adha religious festival, more than 320 000 Muslims came to mosques in Moscow to perform their prayers, saying this was a record. He also said there was a need for dozens of new mosques in Russia's big cities.

Islamabad, PAKISTAN - The government of Pakistan is to establish a consortium consisting of the top 10 universities of the country in an attempt to include them

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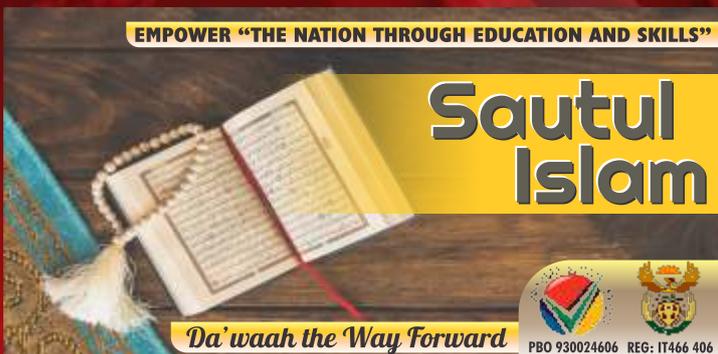


in a list of the world's top 100 higher educational institutions. A committee has been constituted for this purpose to present a report to the Prime Minister. The funding of the selected universities would be separated from other higher educational institutions of the country.

Riyadh, SAUDI ARABIA - Electronic visas for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims will be issued within minutes for various Hajj/Umrah campaigns and companies under plans by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah. "Pilgrims who are coming from outside the Kingdom are tied to Hajj and Umrah service-providing companies and agents in order to obtain a visa. The electronic visas will be issued to these entities who will be licensed to facilitate Hajj and Umrah in these countries," said Abdulrahman Shams, an adviser to the minister of Hajj and Umrah and general supervisor of Hajj and Umrah's electronic platform. Saudi Arabia has issued over five million Umrah visas this year.

Jeddah, SAUDI ARABIA - Saudi Arabia's Human Rights Commission (HRC) has said that one-third of all government jobs in the country are set aside for Saudi women. A report by the Commission said all the government ministries and departments were making efforts to empower women, consolidate their rights and ensure their participation in the development process. It said as many as 220 Saudi women have joined the Ministry of Justice since it opened the door for them last year, working as social, Shariah, and legal researchers, administrative assistants and computer program developers.

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