

The Intellect Bulletin



Alhamdulillah the blessed month of Ramadan is almost upon us. While many people eagerly await its arrival, many are also a little anxious as to how they will cope with fasting this month considering the rising temperatures!

This month is a gift from Allah ﷻ to the Muslims, a mega sale of rewards from Him. One small deed leads to double the rewards. It's a deal and chance not to be missed, and Insha'Allah like last year, this month's Ramadan will also pass by smoothly, in fact leaving us lamenting that wish we had done more!

But to make the best out of this month, we should prepare for it just like we prepare for any major event in our life.

So, How To Prepare for Ramadan?

Below are some useful tips as to how one can prepare for the blessed month of Ramadan so that maximum benefits are reaped from the actual month itself!

1. Sincere Repentance:

This is obligatory at all times, but because of the approach of the great and blessed month, it is even more important to hasten to repent from sins between you and your Lord ﷻ, and between you and other people by giving them their rights, so that when the blessed month begins you may busy yourself with acts of worship with a clean heart and peace of mind.

It was narrated from Al-Agharr ibn Yasaar h that the Prophet ﷺ said: "O people repent to Allah ﷻ for I repent to Him one hundred times each day." [Sahih Muslim]

2 Learn New Duas:

As a preparation for Ramadan we should start learning new duas so that they can be promptly and appropriately recited. As Muslims we should also pray to Allah ﷻ to let us live until Ramadan with a strong faith and good physical health, and we should pray for His help in obeying Him and ask Him to accept our good deeds.

4. Complete Any Outstanding Obligatory Fasts:

Before the arrival of next Ramadan we should complete any obligatory fast left from previous Ramadan.

5. Seek Knowledge:

In order to be able to follow the rulings on fasting and to understand the virtues of Ramadan better, seek more knowledge about this month and share it with family and friends.

6. Read Quran:

Increase your recitation of Quran so that you get in practice to read more in the month of Ramadan.

7. Wake up for Tahajjud:

Start waking up for Tahajjud if you are not already in the habit of doing so as this will also get you in the habit of waking up for Sehri!

8. Tie Up Your Camel:

Get rid of all your Eid shopping pre-Ramadan so that time is not wasted in bazaars during the blessed



month.

Many housewives take this opportunity to spring clean their houses. Make sure you do not tire yourself out doing it as you will need your strength to fast.

Pre cook some food and opinions, but according to Sheikh-ul-Islam, Mufti Taqi Usmani ؒ, the significance of this night cannot be completely disregarded.

The importance of this night has been celebrated by the blessed companions and by their successors in the Islamic history. Hence it is prescribed to stay up this night in nafil ibaadat law but has been prescribed by our Creator Allah ﷻ who knows His creations the best.

Punishments prescribed under Shariah Law are those which are ultimately the best for a person for his life in the Hereafter.

The sultan of Brunei, Hassanal Bolkiah calls the introduction



of Shariah law in his kingdom a "great success." On May 1, 2014, Brunei became the first country in Southeast Asia where the Islamic legal system is enforced on a national level.

Since then, the first phase of Brunei's penal law reform has been in effect. Violations such as not fasting during Ramadan and missing the Friday prayer can be punished with fines or jail time. The second phase will begin in 12 months: Muslims who commit theft or drink alcohol can then be punished with whippings or even have a limb cut off. In the final phase, capital punishment, including stoning, will be imposed for adultery, sodomy and insulting the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Meanwhile, some legal experts and human rights organizations have expressed alarm. The introduction of Shariah is "a huge setback" for human rights in Brunei, Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, said. "It's an authoritarian move towards brutal, medieval punishments that have no place in the modern world of the 21st century."

Views: The fundamental difference between the thought process of believers and non believers is that believers make decisions keeping the impact on their life in the Hereafter in mind too.

Shariah law is not a man-made

freeze.

9. Clear Your Mind and Detoxify:

Start clearing your mind and soul or all bad thoughts and habits so that the urge to fall back on these habits and thoughts is reduced in Ramadan.

10. Rejoice Its Arrival

Lastly, Ramadan is a bounty, a great gift from Allah ﷻ, hence rejoice its arrival and pray to Allah ﷻ that your prayers and supplications are accepted.

How to Make the Best of Ramadan?

A few quick tips on how make the best of Ramadan:

1. Give charity and zakat
2. Perform a lot of Nafil ibadat too along with the fard.
3. Pray Tahajjud when you wake up for Sehri
4. Make a lot of supplications especially during Sehri and Iftaar time.

Hazrat Anas ؓ related that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: "Take the Suhoor meal, for there is blessing and prayers."

- It is however, a sin to associate specific certain kinds of supplications with this night and to seek rewards by preparing special meals.
- Many people associate a visit to the graveyard a compulsory part of the night of Shabb-e-Baraat. According to Sunnah,

the numerous logical fallacies in your premise and instead follow your exact line of reasoning. If we are to accept your rationale, we have to also accept that, if many Muslims are doing good things around the world, and they all believe in Islam, then Islam is responsible for the good that they do.

You noted that women are treated at best like second-class citizens, but most often like property in Islam. The first Muslim woman, Hazrat Khadijah ؓ, a successful businesswoman, and wife to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, and the other Muslim women of his time would have snickered at you. Women of the region were chattel before Islam, treated and traded as such, until the Quran freed them.



I could tell you that Islam was the first system to establish women's property rights, inheritance rights, and the right to education, to marry and divorce of their free will, to be religious scholars, business owners, and soldiers. I could tell you that while Christianity was debating the status of women's souls and declaring them a source of sin, Islam had already established the spiritual equality of men and women and absolved Eve, and womankind at large, of sin. I could tell you that the world and history is full of highly educated, successful women who are empowered by their faith, not debilitated by it.

So while I support you in continuing to expose Muslims and others who shock the conscience of decent people, who destroy lives, and who wreak havoc, I caution you

in it." (Bukhari, Muslim)

5. Take a nap in the afternoon, it will help rejuvenate energy and it's a Sunnah too.
6. Be nice, think positive and act positive.
7. Give up bad acts.
8. Avoid late night meals and snack as this can cause trouble sleeping hence waking up for Sehri difficult.
9. Have company for prayers on the big nights if you feel sleepy praying alone and for motivation.
10. Read the Quran with translation and understanding. Preferably join a Quran Class.
11. Share iftaar with relatives, neighbors and the needy.

Hazrat Zaid ibn Khalid Juhni m related that the Prophet ﷺ said: "He who provides for the breaking of the Siyam of another person earns the same merit as the one who was observing Siyam not diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

Hazrat Muhammad ﷺ visited Jannat-ul-Baqeeh only once on this night. Hence, as Mufti Taqi Usmani ؒ states, to make this action an obligatory part of this night is not right as it was not a consistent practice of our Beloved Prophet ﷺ.

on the anti-Islam rhetoric. You are leading people into rocks and hard places when you posit that Islam is the problem. You are putting Muslims up against a wall and pushing those who fear us further into spaces where little choice is left. As the mother of two American-born daughters, and a Muslim who calls the U.S. her home, I worry deeply about the solutions your followers may propose to your "Muslim question." You should too.

Views: What is saddening is that today's Muslim is himself not following Islam in its true spirit, hence why the beautiful religion of Islam is being pointed fingers at as being a violent and a backward religion. Often a point raised against Islam is that it treats women unfairly whereas the truth is that Islam is the only religion that promises one Heavens at his mother's feet; declares the best amongst men as the one who treats his wife the best; proclaims the birth of a daughter as sign of Allah's ﷻ blessing.

News: California Shooting
Seven people were killed in a shooting near a college campus in California, in what authorities described as "premeditated mass murder". Seven more people were injured.

The gunman, who police said



was one of the people killed, attacked on Friday night, driving a black BMW near the University of California, Santa Barbara campus in the Isla Vista neighborhood. Alan Shifman, an attorney for a Hollywood director, Peter Rodger, said on Saturday

(Tirmidhi)
12. Connect with relatives. Meet them if possible or at least call them.

13. Make a prayer planner if you require one to keep yourself more organized.

14. Avoid carbonated drinks at Iftaar and resort to healthy fresh fruit juices and laban.

15. Avoid going out for Iftaar and Sehri as these are very blessed times of the day during Ramadan, and most of the restaurants these days not only have music on but no proper prayer areas too. Order in if really craving some fast food!

"The month of Ramadan is the one in which the Qur'an was revealed as guidance for mankind, and as clear signs that show the right way and distinguish between right and wrong." (Quran 2:185)

May Allah ﷻ have us enter the month of Ramadan in good health and faith and give us the hidayat to make the best out of it and forgive of us our sins. Ameen.



the family believed his son, Elliot, was responsible for the shooting.

The video, entitled Elliot Rodger's Retribution and published on Friday, showed a young man who said

"I will have my revenge against humanity," he said, vowing to kill students and Isla Vista residents. "I will punish all of you for it."

Witnesses interviewed by local television stations reported seeing the car speeding through the streets as the gunman fired from it. Brown confirmed that the gunman exchanged fire with sheriff's deputies in two separate gunfights, before crashing into a parked car.

The suspect was found dead of a gunshot wound in the car, from which authorities recovered a semiautomatic handgun

In response, a few members of Congress are hoping to revive the gun control debate.

Views: By worldly means, this youth was the son of a Hollywood director, living in the beautiful state of California in one of the most advanced nations surrounded by worldly luxuries. But what was lacking was peace of mind and contentment of the heart.

Allah ﷻ only gives complete contentment of heart to a

Facts Events and Beliefs

The Month of Sha'baan

Sha'ban, the 8th month of the Islamic lunar calendar is so called because in this month the Arabs used to disperse (tasha'aba) in search of water, or it was said that it is so called because it sha'aba (branches out or emerges) i.e., it appears between the months of

Disclaimer: Please note that the views expressed in this article are merely an expression of thoughts on the featured news item in light of deen and hikmat by Hazrat Maulana Abdul Sattar and not meant to conflict with any other personal views or opinions.

News: Shariah Law in Brunei

The small sultanate of Brunei is the first Southeast Asian



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As the holy month of Ramadan approaches, Muslims around the world start preparing to make the most of this month.

Being a Muslim, living in an Islamic country, it is much easier to observe fast as the environment is made and all Muslim adults who can are fasting. In majority of the Muslim states, restaurants remain closed in the mornings and office and school timings are reduced to accommodate the ones fasting.

But for Muslims residing in the non-Islamic states, fasting is a more difficult jihad of the nafs.

We took this opportunity to ask Muslims around the world how they are preparing for Ramadan:

' Ramadan this year will consist of almost 21 hours

of fasting, giving us approximately 3 hours for iftaar, Magrib, Isha and Fajr prayers and Sehri! Will be a little difficult to manage all this in such a small time frame but Insha'Al-

Gearing Up for Ramadan Global Glimpses



By Zawjah Faisal

lah Allah c will put barakat in our time and give me strength to fast and keep my little one under the rope!

Says the mom of an almost 1 year old toddler living in Scotland.

'The plan is to get most of the cooking out of the way before hand so that least amount of time is spent in the kitchen. No heavy iftaars, just a filling dinner and sehri and lots and lots

of water. I plan to make a daily schedule for prayers so that can manage time better', she further adds!

A new housewife, previously residing in Jeddah laments,

'Ramadan in Jeddah was

so much better than here in Boston. We would go to Makkah and Madina for the last Ashra.

Here I am at the moment kind of worried as to how

I will cope with such long fasts and am also trying to find a place nearby where I can go for Taraweeh so that can feel the spirit more.'

A young mom residing in Abu Dhabi loves the fact

that in Ramadan there, all grocery and food items go on deals and all kinds of dates flood the markets! She feels that Muslims fasting should be facilitated with lower prices rather than being exploited by hoarding and artificially high prices.

A father of two, working as an engineer in Houston, USA says:

'Allhamdulillah my supervisors are accommodating when it comes to late sittings and workload in Ramadan. I try to tie up my projects before Ramadan so that can easily make it to the mosque for prayers, especially Magrib!'

A mother of two, juggling housework with studies, living in New Mexico, USA says:

'I am preparing for Rama-

dan by purifying my heart. The concept of purification of the heart can be very broad, but for me, it means to do dhikr, pray for others, letting go of all the negativity in my heart, being kind to others, and thanking Allah c for all that He has blessed us with.'

'Along with the normal iftari preps for Ramadan, I also finish Qurans one on my own and one with my group of friends.'

Says a mom from Toronto, Canada

Lastly, a Masters in Finance from Sandy, Utah, USA tells of a very unique tradition she has initiated,

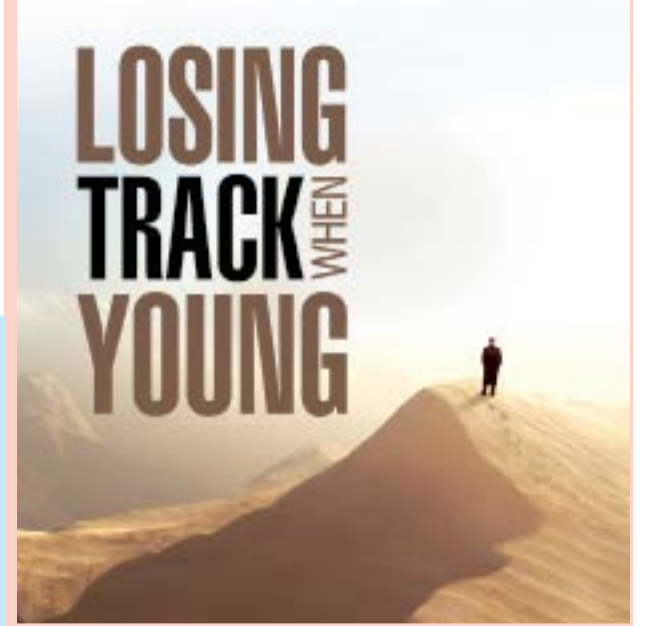
'Last year I began this tradition of an Eid bush. Each night at Maghreb, I pin a flower and we have a countdown to Eid!'

The important thing about being found when you're lost is wanting to be found. If you're found, they will all know that you were lost. That you failed. Walking the same path as everyone else, you strayed. Everyone was trying, sweating and becoming something. But trying was an effort, it meant responsibility, it meant hard hours, and even though the adventure was fun, the goal worthy... wasn't not trying easier? Yes, your conscience

help, because you never told them. Because then they would know how dark it was getting inside, how you had failed time and again.

But if they didn't know, perhaps that meant you were being given yet another chance. You were pretending this far, you were born with the tag-why not live up to it?

As you walked on, you endeavored to find calm, rebuking yourself on such a waste, such neglect. Why did you ever succumb?



warned, your heart burned in your chest, for the darkness away from the path beckoned; and yet, it was deceiving. It promised a numbing excitement, it promised living something reckless. It promised gratification.

There was no contentment to be found though, no matter how much you searched. So you didn't dare lose sight of the Path, you stayed close. The dark continued to allure, but also to hurt. You wanted to get back on the path, but found yourself unable. Snared, enslaved and lost. Tears dripping, you wondered why you ever stepped out. Nobody could

Every fiber of your being protested, and yet you walked on.

You began to tire. The path ahead forked.

Our beloved Prophet c said: "There are two impulses in the soul, one from an angel which calls towards good and confirms truth; whoever finds this let him know it is from Allah and praise Him. Another impulse comes from the enemy which leads to doubt and denies truth and forbids good; whoever finds this, let him seek refuge in Allah c from the accursed devil." (Tirmidhi)

(To be continued...)

Bait-us-Salam Updates

A few years back Bait-us-Salaam Welfare Trust got the ball rolling towards achieving its aim of establishing Quran institutes across the country, from remote far flung areas to in major cities and small villages.

The objective behind taking on this mission is bringing the light of deen into peoples' lives. Allhamdulillah these institutes have now started

spreading the color of Islam in the communities they are based in, because after all it is the color of Islam being spread through the education and knowledge of Quran.

To what extent has BSWT been able to achieve its objective can be gauged by the following real life heart touching examples; the examples are of Mirpurkhas and Umarmot and compare

the lives of the people of the villages before and after the establishment of Quran institutes there.

Call for Prayer in Yakooob Nagri

Initially a small Quran institute was setup in the Yakooob Nagri, a village in Mirpurkhas. But the increasing number of interested students soon led to the addition of another class to it.

A local resident revealed that the place where the institute has been built was owned by a Hindu who had donated it for a mosque. Yet another resident added that before the establishment of the Quran institute, the call for prayers had never been given in the mosque!

It was with the blessing of this institute and Allah's c will that now not only is the call for prayers given 5 times a day, but prayers are also performed.

Change in the Attitude & Views of Residents of

Jasmaeelmeo

The Imam of a mosque in a nearby area called Jasmaeelmeo said that the locals of this area were deeply involved in bidaat. He took over the responsibility of the local mosque there and under the patronage of BSWT initiated Quran classes too and Allhamdulillah people's perception on a lot of matters has changed.

Lots of jamaats also visit the area now which has further helped do away with age's old misconceptions. The



number of children keen on acquiring the knowledge of Quran is so many that another class had to be started here too.

Never Seen the Quran or Learned the Kalima!

In Sandmuhalla, a village near Umarpur, Sindh, a man told us a very astonishing fact. He said that their ancestors had been residing in this area for over 2.5 centuries but before the establishment of a Quran institute by the Trust here, the current generation of locals had never seen a copy of the Quran before!

Another resident revealed that till he learned the

of Islam.



In the Village of Meghani

In the small village of Meghani, the Friday sermon was never given in Arabic as it was considered to be a grave sin, told an Aalim.

Allhamdulillah, with the establishment of a Quran institute there, this perception has been done away with and formal Quran education has begun which was till then seriously lacking in this village.

The villagers are very grateful of BSWT for its efforts.

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Stature of Parents

By Muhammad Ammar - Student Jamia Bait-us-Salam

Sheikh Abid lived with his mute father and blind mother. He had two brothers named Hamid and Khalid. His brothers were younger than him.

He raised his brothers from childhood.

Abid got married and had four sons. One day he had to go on a journey with his brothers, sons and parents, on a big ship. During the journey the children were playing and talking with their uncles. Suddenly there came terrible storm and it caused a hole at bottom of the ship and the water began to come in. The captain yelled, 'In ten minutes the ship will sink. Take out the life-boats and get in it! But only four people can sit in each.'

They took one out and asked Sheikh which four

people should get in it? The decision was on Sheikh. Now he had his parents and brothers on one side and his children on the other side. 'Who should he save?' he thought. After a few minutes he told his brothers, 'Both of you get in with the parents.' One of his brothers asked, 'What about your children? Will you let them drown?' Sheikh replied, 'Don't waste time, hurry up!' His mute father was in tears after his decision. They got in the lifeboat hesitantly and went away. Suddenly

a rescue ship came and the scout saved Sheikh and

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Surahs Trivia

ACROSS

1 Surah in which 27 names of Allah are mentioned. (Al...)

6 The only Surah that does not begin with Bismillah. (Al...)

7 Which is the shortest Surah of the Quran? (Al...)

DOWN

2 The Surah in which every verse ends with the letter Dal. (Al...)

3 The only Surah in which the letter Fa is not used. (Al...)

4 Which is the longest Surah of the Quran? (Al...)

5 In which Surah is Bismillah mentioned twice? (Al...)

Answers to May 14 Crossword

Across: 2- Hazrat Summaya i, 3-Hazrat Harith h, 6-Hazrat Qaasim h, 7-Hazrat Umar h, 9-Hazrat Aisha i

Down: 1- Hazrat Khadija i, 4-Hazrat Bilal h, 5-Quba, 8-Hazrat Ali h

Answers will be published in the June '14 issue of TIB

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