

VOLUME 3.ISSUE 1

Somerset Gazette

تَقَبَّلَ اللهُ مِنَّا وَمِنْكُمْ

[MAY ALLAH ACCEPT
FROM US AND FROM
YOU]

HABITS TO TAKE OUT
OF رمضان

INTERVIEW WITH
MR ENGIN

EYES ON SUDAN.
EYES ON PALESTINE.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It is with immense pleasure that I write this note for Nizamiye's 3rd volume of the Somerset Gazette - this marks our 3rd year of successful execution of the high-school publication.

With heavy hearts, the Somerset Gazette bid farewell to quite a large number of our core team members this year as they began their matriculant journey - we wish them success and prosperity on their path. With equal enthusiasm, I welcome our new team - may 2026 be a thriving year at the newspaper club and may you find both your voice and style as we navigate issue by issue.

Core team:

Ilhaam Hajat (managing director)

Yusairah Syed (layout director)

Rumaisa Vabed

Juwayria Darwood

Hasnaa Fadel

Abbaam Jooma

Nadirah Haffajee

Sumayyah Mahammad

Taba MD Zabir

Wafeeqa Mahomed

Asma Lambat

Hayia Jamal

Aafiya Sunesara

Nabila Norwin

Ramin Zulfiqar

Rumaysah Akhalwaya

Fatima Zabra Watson

Zaara Jakda

Hareem Zaidi

Of course, it would be remiss not to acknowledge our part-time members and freelancers, who volunteer their time and effort to assist us per issue.

Freelance and Part-time:

Ayesha Omar

Taufiq Diallo

Yumna Omer

Nadia Dissa

Ecrin Morris

Zabra Khan

The theme for this issue centred around the spirit of Ramadhan, with an aptly titled issue as 'May Allah accept from us and from you'. You will feel the theme recurring across our articles, and notice the colour scheme reflecting this as well. The attitudes we develop in Ramadhan reflect our potential as human beings who are capable of discipline and dedication, with untainted purity that we hope to carry out of Ramadhan as well. It is with absolute perfection that Islam shows us an ideal way of life, and encourages us to continuously strive for favourable enhancement of person.

We hope you enjoy perusing through this issue, a compilation proudly brought to you by Nizamiye's very own. As always, remember that the newspaper is a work *by the students, for the students*, in an attempt to encapsulate the essence of Nizamiye in few pages. Whilst we may not do it perfectly, we try our best and look forward to your feedback and support.

Sincerely

Ms Ameera Fakir
Editor-in-chief

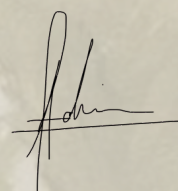


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As a platform for expression and creativity, the Somerset Gazette showcases the work of learners across our school. Donations ensure that the spirit of physical media continues and that the club remains afloat, allowing every learner to hold a printed copy. Learners eager to contribute in other ways are welcome to join the writing or layout teams and participate in future editions.

If you are interested in contributing towards the Somerset Gazette, please speak to Ms Ameera, Ilhaam Hajat or Yusairah Syed.

"Leadership is action, not position."

Donald H. McGanno

At *Nizamiye Mayfair*, learners may find the epitome of this quote in Mr Engin Gül, our new principal.

Mr Gül is originally from *Turkey* and left in 2001, beginning a long period of teaching abroad. He spent over fourteen years working in *Kenya* before moving to *South Africa* in 2016. Throughout these transitions, mathematics remained the central point of his career. He holds a *Bachelor of Science in Mathematics* and teaches the subject exclusively and with a passion. In support of his teaching career, he expanded his qualifications with a *Postgraduate Certificate in Education*, combining his love for mathematics and education.

Although he once considered becoming a lecturer, classroom teaching remained his preferred path. The day-to-day interaction with learners and the opportunity to witness their progress played an important role in that decision.

Prior to arriving at *Nizamiye Mayfair*, Mr Gül spent time at *Nizamiye Midrand* and *Nizamiye Al Azhar* in *Port Elizabeth*. He remarked that these roles strengthened his experience in school leadership and allowed him to deepen his understanding of maintaining school culture while supporting academic growth.

Meet Mr

Engin Gül

At *Nizamiye Mayfair*, Mr Gül hopes to preserve the cultural and academic environment that already exists, while continuing to learn more about the learners and the general school community. He emphasises that progress within a school is a shared responsibility, requiring both effort from both the educators and learners.

Outside of his professional responsibilities, Mr Gül describes himself as a family man. He is married and a father of three, and much of his time away from school is enveloped by family life. This role remains an important part of how he maintains balance beyond the walls of his office. Alongside this, he enjoys drawing, a personal interest that provides him with a creative outlet outside his daily routine.

When asked what students should know about him, Mr Gül answers simply, *"I try my best."* He hopes students feel supported in their learning and able to approach school with a sense of comfort rather than pressure. Mr Gül highlights his genuine desire for learners to enjoy learning and to know that their efforts are recognised along the way.

As Mr Gül begins his journey at our school, may Allah make his time here fruitful and reward him abundantly for all his efforts.

From all of us at *Nizamiye Mayfair*,
welcome to the family, Mr Gül.

Written by: Ilhaam Hajat

Designed by: Ilhaam Hajat

Interviews

As we embark on a new academic year, we are pleased to welcome three new teachers to the Nizamiye Mayfair family. As they begin to find their place within our school community, we took the opportunity to get to know them a little better. Here is what we asked them:

1. Who or what inspired you to start teaching /join our school?
2. What are your goals for Nizamiye?
3. What was your favourite subject in school?
4. What do you do in your free time?
5. What is a must-read book you think every student should read?
6. What would your students be surprised to find out about you?
7. What is your dream profession?
8. If you were a school supply/stationery item, what would you be?
9. What is a quote you live by?
10. What do you hope students will remember about you years from now?

GET TO KNOW MS MAHNOOR SHAFIQUE MUHAMMAD

Interviewer: Taufiq Diallo

- 1) I was really inspired by the teachers I had during high school who cared deeply about their students and created a thriving environment for us to learn and grow. That experience stayed with me, and returning to the school felt like a meaningful way to follow in their footsteps and contribute to the same supportive environment that helped me grow.
- 2) My goal is to help maintain the warm environment that makes the school special. Even with my small role, I hope to contribute to a space where students feel encouraged and teachers feel supported. Since I'm often the first face people see in the morning, I want to create a welcoming and calm presence. School can be really stressful, so if I can make someone's day even a little easier or a little brighter, that would mean a lot to me.
- 3) Physics challenged me in the best way. It constantly pushed me to think deeper and kept my mind active. I enjoyed the intense problem-solving and the feeling of finally understanding something that once seemed complicated. English, on the other hand, was where I discovered my love for analysing literature and writing poetry. Those lessons really helped me develop my critical thinking and taught me how to explore ideas from different perspectives.
- 4) If I'm not studying, I'm usually either sleeping or journaling. Journaling has been something I've done for most of my life and it's become one of my favourite ways to reflect and unwind.
- 5) This Woven Kingdom series by Taherah Mafi, and Legacy of Orisha trilogy by Tomi Adeyami
- 6) You might be surprised to know that I'm currently a Bachelor of Science student, majoring in physics and statistics, while also studying at madrassa. Im still a student too ☺
- 7) If we're being a little realistic, my dream is to be an astrophysicist working at NASA. But if we're being completely imaginative, I'd probably be a fairy in Winx Club, studying at Alfea. I'd be a moon fairy, of course.
- 8) I'd be a Zebra ClickArt retractable marker in 0.6mm, Warm Grey, with its capless moisture-lock technology so it never dries out, smooth fibre tip for consistent line width, quick-drying water-based ink, and a perfectly weighted barrel for long note-taking sessions. Subtle tone. No harsh neon. Soft grey precision that makes messy notes look curated.
- 9) "Is there any reward for goodness except goodness?"
I try to live by the idea of being a good person without expecting anything in return. A reminder to be kind and love unconditionally.
- 10) I hope they remember me as someone who was present and reliable; someone who was miraculously there when they needed help, or if they just wanted someone to talk to. Even if it was something small, I'd like to think that students felt they could always count on me.

BONUS:

A random fun fact about me is that my name means moonlight ☺

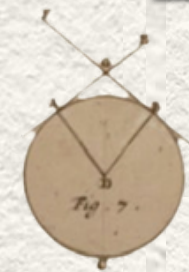
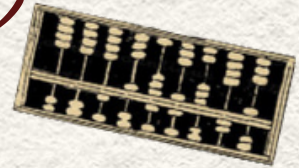


Interviews

GET TO KNOW MS GÜLFIDAN GÜL

Interviewer: Nabila Nowsin

- 1) My Mathematics teacher
- 2) My goal is to bring out the best in every student. I aim to improve academic results while also inspiring learners to develop strong akhlaaq and good character. I hope to be beneficial not only in sharing knowledge, but also in shaping students' values and morals.
- 3) Mathematics, of course.
- 4) I enjoy sewing and creating DIY projects.
- 5) Itrade Terbiyesi – Abdulaziz Kıransal
- 6) I'm quite adventurous and I love crazy adventures. The idea of flying through the sky one day, especially by going parachuting, really excites me.
- 7) When I was younger, I thought about becoming a doctor for a while because I wasn't completely sure of my direction. In the end, teaching has always been my true calling, so when I applied to university, education was the only programme I applied for.
- 8) A pen, because I hope to leave a memorable mark on my students' lives.
- 9) "Live in order to give life"
- 10) I hope they remember me as a teacher who always strived for their betterment, someone who encouraged them to be their best in both character and learning.



GET TO KNOW MR AMIN NEL

Interviewer: Taha MD Zahir

- 1) I wouldn't say that it was one particular person, but rather a bunch of my high school teachers. The first would've been my first Afrikaans teacher, who was like our mom - we could tell her anything. The second would be my English teacher as I model my teaching style around her. Lastly my Biology teacher; although she was hard on us, we knew she wanted the best from us.
- 2) What is distressing for me is that I see a lot of disrespect towards teachers and rules; and lack of culture. I come from a school where culture was extreme so things like entering a door in front of a girl is unacceptable or not cheering during sports day for your team. I see that spirit missing in some learners in this generation and I want to try to instil those values in our school.
- 3) Biology. It was the most stimulating subject for me and opened up doors to my understanding of the universe and life
- 4) Most of my free time consists of spending time with my son. If not, it would be my wife and maybe watching something or playing a video game.
- 5) I don't read much but I would say A Game of Thrones by George R. R. Martin.
- 6) I can't drive. However I do plan on getting my license this year.
- 7) A bio-medical engineer or anything related to research.
- 8) A ruler - you can use it to measure anything but also to sort out some people.
- 9) "Do unto others as you would do to yourself"
- 10) My kindness and sense of humor.

[Interviewer: the ruler thing about sorting out people is real.]



Designed by: Ahlaam Jooma

A message from Nizamiye's 2026 Headgirl

“My name is Ayesha Omar and as I extend this message to the cherished family of Nizamiye and to all fortunate readers of this newspaper, I do so as the current Headgirl of 2026. This role is one I am still navigating, yet I embrace it with much gratitude and honour, alhamdulillah.

In reflecting on the essence of our school, I was drawn to something present in every motto we hold:
Hikmet, Akıl, Kalp
where the heart and mind meet educating hearts and inspiring minds

Every time I read these words, the emphasis on the heart and the mind strikes me anew. And yet I find myself asking, what is it about this union that holds such profoundness?

I have come to imagine it as a traveller sailing toward their destination. The heart resembles the stars in the night sky, acting as a guiding compass and the mind resembles the boat, the means through which the traveller may reach the shore. A traveller on this journey of life cannot successfully fulfil their purpose without both heart and mind. Thus every moment we face, be it challenges or choices, is an invitation to listen to both heart and mind and through their union, to discover the beauty of who we are meant to be: our purpose. In the spirit of this edition, I pray that, guided by both heart and mind, you and I are accepted to sail through life, and find and serve the purpose for which we were so beautifully created.”



Prefects 2026



NIZAMIYE SCHOOL - MAYFAIR

7

PREFECTS - HIGH SCHOOL 2026

Prestige Photographic Group Pty(Ltd)

Meet your Deputy Headpersons for 2026

Below you'll find their responses to 3 questions:

- 1) What motivated you to run for headperson?
- 2) What are your goals as headperson this year?
- 3) What do you enjoy the most about being the headperson?

We are excited to announce the deputy headgirl/boy at Nizamiye Mayfair for the academic year of 2026. Our grade 12 deputy headgirl is Gulnur Jorayeve, and the grade 11 deputy headgirl is Ilhaam Hajat. For the first time since 2015, we now have our deputy headboy - Moussa Maguiraga! As these learners act as a pivotal bridging point between learners and teachers, we wanted to take a look at what they have to say.



Ilhaam Hajat

- 1.) As a fellow learner who is aware of the state of the world and all too familiar with academic stress, I understand how school can slowly wear down the morale of a teenager who is simply trying to balance everything and still do well. For that reason, I wanted to be in a better position to help others who may feel the same way, and also be a voice for the people who may sometimes go unheard.
- 2.) My goals are simply to live out the values that led me to become deputy headgirl in the first place. I hope to help build a bridge of understanding between teachers and students, making sure that the voices of my peers are considered, where appropriate, when decisions about our school are made, because it is a place that belongs to all of us. More importantly, I want school to feel like a place where people can breathe, somewhere safe and welcoming in a world that can feel heavy quite often.
- 3.) With many positions of authority, the title can sometimes distract from the responsibility it carries. What I truly enjoy is the work itself rather than the status attached to it. Each day, I try to make people's lives a tiny bit brighter and a little easier. My classmates mean a great deal to me, and working for their contentment brings happiness to me as well.



Gulnur Jorayeve

- 1) I became motivated to become headgirl once I realized how much our school cares and wishes to help the students. I wanted to be part of that movement and wanted to play a part in making students enjoy school, even if it's a little bit more.
- 2) My goals as deputy headgirl this year would probably be to work together with our wonderful team of prefects and improve school conditions whether it's helping students out or relaying issues to management so that we can resolve them efficiently. I truly want our team of prefects (including me) to be people anyone can trust and approach with their problems.
- 3) The thing I enjoy the most about being one of the deputy headgirls is that I am put into a position where I get to interact or socialize with many students and teachers. I enjoy getting to learn more about people and working together with them, which I probably wouldn't do if I were not a deputy.



Moussa Maguiraga

- 1) I wasn't always sure that I wanted to be headboy. I always felt that it'd be a responsibility I couldn't manage and I did not see myself as a great example or leader. I'd like to thank all the teachers who saw me for me, believed in me and motivated me to be headboy.
- 2) My goal is to help the youth in school become good kids and (emphasis on) good men in the future. I want Nizamiye to know it wasn't a bad choice to allow boys back in the school and to be someone who people can rely on, someone whose example can lead others.
- 3) What I enjoy most is the ability to be able to help wherever and however I can, and the ability to learn and work with the team.

We wish much success to our learners as they embark on this journey of leadership, knowing that the learners voted for them and the teachers trusted in them. We look forward to seeing their efforts for Nizamiye Mayfair. May Allah grant all of us success in Dunyaa and Akhirah Insha Allah.



MATRIC JACKETS CEREMONY

Written by : Nabila Nowsin
Designed by : Hasnaa Fadel

Excitement and celebration filled the school grounds as the *Matriculant class of 2026* officially received their matric jackets in a memorable ceremony that marked the beginning of their final year.

As names were called out and each learner stepped out in their jacket for the first time, they were welcomed with applause from friends, teachers, and fellow learners.

One of the most special moments of the ceremony was the long-standing tradition of the *balloon release*. The Matric class gathered and each learner released her balloon into the sky. As the helium balloons drifted ever upwards, a hush fell over everyone, emotion filled the air, capturing the essence of a day they will always remember. It was a quiet but powerful reminder that this year is not just about endings, but also about new beginnings.

Throughout the day, corridors turned into photo studios as friends captured memories in their new *green and black* attire. For the Matric Class of 2026, the baseball jacket is more than just fabric, it is a reminder of how far they have come and the bright future that lies ahead. We remind them that behind them will always be the support and love of Nizamiye.



2025 - A year of dedication and achievement

Written by: Ramin Zulfiqar and Hayia Jamal

Designed by: Asma Lambat

Matric Awards

The *Matriculant Class of 2025* delivered an exceptional academic performance, achieving a 100% pass rate, a 100% bachelor's pass rate, an impressive 73 distinctions, and an outstanding A-aggregate of 1.83. These remarkable results reflect the learners' dedication and commitment to excellence, setting a new benchmark for academic success within the school. The subject awards recognised learners who achieved outstanding results in their respective disciplines, reflecting dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to academic excellence. This year, several learners distinguished themselves across a range of subjects.

The recipients of the subject awards were as follows -

- English Home Language: Romisaa Fadel
- Afrikaans First Additional Language: Romisaa Fadel
- Life Orientation: Romisaa Fadel
- Religion Studies: Maryam Ravat
- Mathematics: Rana Irhuma
- Mathematical Literacy: Hamna Ahmed
- Accounting: Romisaa Fadel
- Computer Applications Technology: Bazilah Hashmi
- Arabic Second Additional Language: Romisaa Fadel
- Physical Sciences: Rana Irhuma
- History: Aaliyah Ballim
- Life Sciences: Rana Irhuma
- Business Studies: Laila Dawood
- Advanced Programme Mathematics: Romisaa Fadel

Among these high achievers, Romisaa Fadel stood out for her exceptional academic performance across multiple subjects. Her consistent excellence culminated in her receiving the prestigious DUX Award, presented to the learner who achieved the highest overall academic performance. This honour recognises not only her academic brilliance but also her discipline and unwavering commitment to success. The Matric Awards Ceremony of 2025 stood as a proud celebration of ambition, resilience, and triumph. These remarkable achievements have not only brought honour to the learners but have also become a source of immense pride for Nizamiye Mayfair. As the matric class embarks on the next chapter of their journey, they carry with them a legacy of excellence that will inspire generations to come.



External Awards

The 2025 matric year was one of intense pressure and hard work for our Grade 12 learners. With the grace and help of Allah, *Nizamiye School Mayfair* is proud to be among the schools that achieved a 100% matric pass rate for 2025. Our school has achieved outstanding results in both the Association of Muslim Schools and the *Johannesburg North District Awards*.

Gauteng Association of Muslim Schools (AMS) Awards

We proudly celebrate the following achievements:

Romisaa Fadel - Award of Akhlaaq

Romisaa Fadel - *Highest number of distinctions* at Nizamiye School Mayfair and *second highest* among Muslim schools.

Romisaa Fadel - Highest mark for Mathematics and AP Mathematics among Muslim schools.

Maryam Ravat - Highest mark in Religion Studies among Muslim schools.

Asha Adam - Best learner in Islamiyaat

District Awards (Johannesburg North district)

With immense pride, we are happy to announce that our 2025 matric graduates received awards at the *Johannesburg North Independent Schools Awards* ceremony, attended by officials from the Department of Basic Education.

This is a remarkable achievement for *Nizamiye Mayfair*, as our school competes in the same category as other well-known high schools in the Johannesburg North District. Our principal, *Mr Engin Gul*, proudly represented the school at the ceremony.

Special recognition goes to:

Romisaa Fadel - Ranked among the Top 10 achievers in the district and received a laptop.

Maryam Ravat - Top learner in Religion Studies



These accomplishments are a significant milestone for *Nizamiye School Mayfair*. We are incredibly proud of our learners and look forward to achieving even greater success in the years to come.

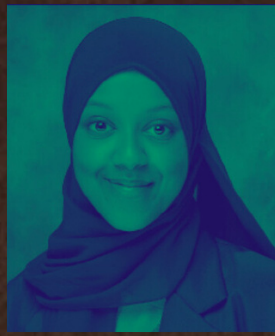
CAPTAINS

Ilhaam



Hajat

Yumna



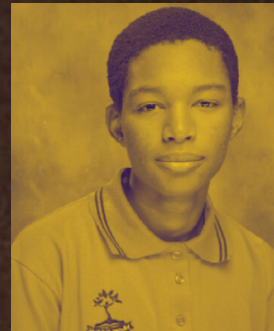
Mahmud

Amera



Zaghloul

Taufiq



Diallo

Designed by: Yusairah Syed



Meet THE HOUSE CAPTAINS

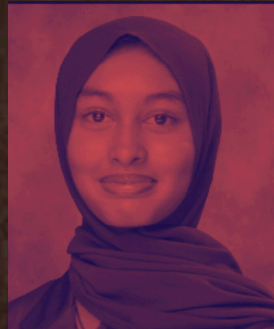
CO-CAPTAINS



Aminata Saccob



Sudais Khan



Wafeeqa Mahomed



Mehreen Khan

House Activities

General Knowledge

Juniors	Seniors
Jade Serpents (12)	Jade Serpents (12)
Fiery Phoenix (9)	Fiery Phoenix (12)
Lunar Panthers (6)	Lunar Panthers (9)
Casa de Jaguares (3)	Casa de Jaguares (9)

Table Tennis

Juniors	Seniors
Casa de Jaguares(12)	Casa de Jaguares(9)
Jade Serpents(7)	Jade Serpents(13)
Lunar Panthers(8)	Lunar Panthers(4)
Fiery Phoenix (4)	Fiery Phoenix(5)

Spelling Bee

Juniors	Seniors
Jade Serpents(16)	Jade Serpents(16)
Lunar Panthers(12)	Lunar Panthers(12)
Fiery Phoenix(8)	Fiery Phoenix(4)
Casa de Jaguares(4)	Casa de Jaguares(8)

Essay Competition

Juniors	Seniors
Lunar Panthers(8)	Lunar Panthers(12)
Jade Serpents(8)	Jade Serpents(11)
Fiery Phoenix(9)	Fiery Phoenix(3)
Casa de Jaguares(3)	Casa de Jaguares(7)

Qiraat Competition

Boys	Girls
Jade Serpents(16)	Jade Serpents(16)
Fiery Phoenix(16)	Fiery Phoenix(12)
Casa de Jaguares(12)	Casa de Jaguares(4)
Lunar Panthers(8)	Lunar Panthers(8)

Chess

Fiery Phoenix(15)
Lunar Panthers(13)
Jade Serpents(10)
Casa de Jaguares(8)

House Board Challenge

Jade Serpents(20)
Casa de Jaguares(15)
Lunar Panthers(10)
Fiery Phoenix(5)

Football

Jade Serpents (24)
Fiery Phoenix(18)
Casa de Jaguares(12)
Lunar Panthers(12)

Designed by: Ilhaam Hajat & Yusairah Syed

Book character day

In this years much anticipated book character day, students and faculty emerged from their homes in outfits that would make even the great Harry Potter a little bit jealous

From Little Red Riding Hood to Dr Seuss, it was safe to say no student came unprepared on the 5th February. The school hallways transformed into pages of a story book as students waltzed around, striking poses and showing off their incredible costumes. This magical day was not only limited to students, as some of our teachers joined in the fun, dressing up and adding another level of excitement to the day.

And so, even if it was only for a short chapter in time, the glittery trails of untold stories and far away lands seemed to float through the hallways long after the final bell rang.

Written by: Zahra Khan

Designed by: Ecrin Morris



WINTER R I LEGENDS SE

FIRST AMERICAN WOMAN

SINCE

2002



Frozen Legends and Roaring Crowds: The Winter Olympics That Shook the World

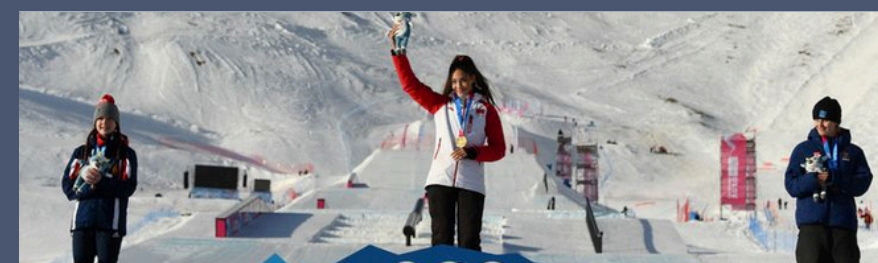
MILAN – The 2026 Winter Olympics in Milano-Cortina erupted into life with breathtaking performances, historic victories, and moments that will echo through Olympic history for years. Beneath glittering lights and drifting snow, the world's greatest athletes transformed frozen arenas into stages of courage, heartbreak, and glory.

The opening ceremony was unforgettable. Music icon Mariah Carey stunned the crowd with a powerful performance, while opera legend Andrea Bocelli's emotional voice filled the stadium as the Olympic flame was lit.

Yet amid the cheers, controversy struck when U.S. Vice President JD Vance appeared on the giant screen and was met with loud boos from sections of the crowd, a rare political reaction that shocked viewers worldwide.

Both on the ice and snow, legends were born. Norway's Johannes Klæbo made history by winning all six cross-country skiing events, becoming one of the greatest Winter Olympics ever.

In hockey, the United States stunned Canadian rivals with a dramatic overtime goal to win their first Olympic gold in decades. Freestyle skier Eileen Gu dazzled fans again by winning gold in the halfpipe, confirming her superstar status. From historic wins to emotional performances and unforgettable drama, these Olympics proved one truth: greatness rises where courage meets ice.



The event that attracted the most attention from the fans was figure skating, where artistry met high risk and emotional redemption. Representing the United States, Ilia Malinin surprised the fans by landing a backflip in his short program, a move last seen in 1976. Despite the roar of approval and Malinin becoming a fan favourite, a few mistakes in his free skate landed him in eighth place, much to the bewilderment of the crowd.

In one of the more powerful and uplifting stories of the games, American skater Alysa Liu had made a remarkable comeback. After winning U.S. national champion at 13 and then proceeding to retire at 16, Liu decided to comeback on her own terms. She skated without the pressure of winning, but she skated for herself, to enjoy the sport she loves, and captured the Olympic gold medal in women's singles, proving that self-belief can be stronger than expectation.



Japan also brought unforgettable moments to this year's Olympics. Kaori Sakamoto, the women's silver medallist, announced that this would be her last competition before retirement and ended with a powerful yet emotional performance. Meanwhile Japan's rising star, 17-year-old, Ami Nakai, stunned the audience with maturity and performative brilliance beyond her years by successfully landing a triple axel among other elements; she earned herself a bronze medal.

Adding a touch of fun to the immense pressure and intensity of the competition, during the exhibition gala, the men's gold medallist from Kazakhstan, Mikhail Shaidorov, amused fans by skating in a Kung Fu Panda costume and landing a triple jump impressing fans.



UPDATE ON

Written by: Rumaisa Vahed

فلسطين



The world has gone quiet while the sound of a mother's cry echoes off the walls of a rain-soaked tent. A blind eye has been turned on the people of Palestine – not once, but repeatedly – on those whose voices are not heard. The children who wander around with no family to return to, walk through the mud in shoes that have carried them miles away from a place they once called home; a home now bombed to rubble with no care of the memories and families that lived within. The scraps lie on the floor, stripped of belonging.

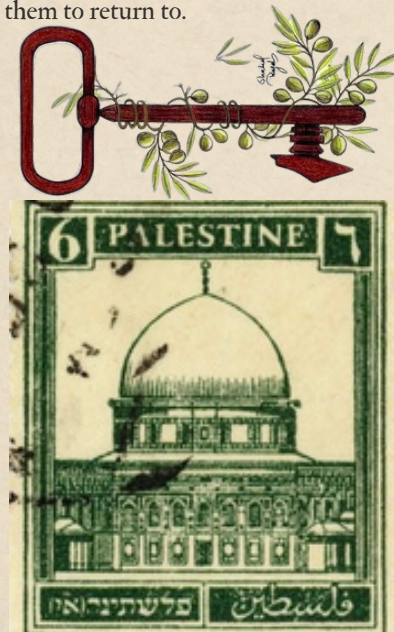
They lie on the ground now, the vibrations of a sob muffled within – a child drowning in the remnants of what was once their room. The question remains: Where do these children belong? Where do they go?

Where is their home now?

A refugee camp is not the answer. More than 700 000 Israelis live in settlements and outposts in the *West Bank*, which are illegal under international law, while about 3.3 million Palestinians live in the territory. Israeli forces regularly carry out violent raids, conduct arrests and impose restrictions on movement in the *West Bank*, where attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians have also intensified, often under the protection of Israeli soldiers. In January alone, at least 694 Palestinians were driven from their homes in the *West Bank* because of Israeli settler violence and harassment, the highest number since Israel's genocidal war against Palestinians in *Gaza* erupted in October 2023.

Our algorithm is flooded with galas of celebrities who fund an active genocide, millionaires and billionaires of the world who contribute to the everlasting corruption of the world, but we have forgotten the injustices done to the 73 158+ who have been stripped of their dreams, their freedom and their basic right to live. If world leaders believe they have the right to make these decisions without consequence, then we are in deeper trouble than we realize.

Deaths will continue. Mothers will sob. Fathers will dig through shattered concrete. And the children – they will wander, lost, wondering who is left for them to return to.



IRAN ON THE BRINK

UPRISING, DIPLOMACY AND THE SHADOW OF WAR.

As of 15 February 2026, Iran stands at a crucial moment in its history, gripped by nationwide unrest, high-stakes nuclear diplomacy, and rising military tensions.

What began on 28 December 2025 as protests over economic turmoil and the collapse of the Iranian Rial (IRR) has evolved into a sweeping anti-government movement demanding regime change.

Activists estimate that between 6 800 and 30 000 people have been killed in a fierce crackdown by security forces, while authorities acknowledge at least 3 000 deaths. Global solidarity rallies drew hundreds of thousands to cities including Toronto, Munich and Los Angeles. Meanwhile the concern is mounting over the reported imminent public execution of 18 year-old wrestling champion *Saleh Mohammadi* in Qom, Iran.

Despite the turmoil, a second round of indirect nuclear talks between Tehran and Washington is set to begin in Geneva on 17 February. Iran has signaled potential flexibility in sectors such as energy and aviation in exchange for sanctions relief. However, U.S. President Donald Trump has indicated that while he prefers a negotiated settlement, he believes regime change would ultimately be beneficial, reportedly giving Iran a one-month deadline to reach an agreement.

At the same time military tensions continue to escalate. The United States has reinforced its presence in the Middle East, deploying a second aircraft carrier and preparing for possible extended operations if diplomacy collapses.

Reports of a strike on the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant and satellite imagery showing Iran fortifying underground nuclear facilities have intensified fears of direct confrontation. Amid this military turmoil, imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate *Narges Mohammadi* remains on hunger strike as international concern over human rights deepens.

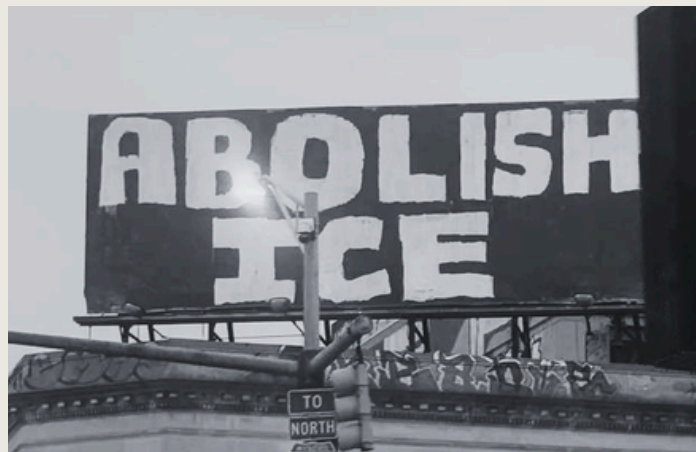
HEAT ON ICE

Written by: Ilhaam Hajat

In the aftermath of the 2001 September 11 events, the administration of *George W. Bush* reorganised the United States' security structure under the broader "war on terror." One of the most significant outcomes was the creation of *Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)* in 2003, alongside agencies such as Customs and Border Protection, all operating under the *Department of Homeland Security*.

Initially framed as a mechanism to protect national security and regulate immigration processes, *ICE* quickly became one of the most controversial federal agencies in the *United States*. While its mandate centres on enforcing immigration law and deporting undocumented individuals, critics argue that the complexity of legal immigration pathways often places vulnerable people at risk of detention regardless of intent.

Debates surrounding *ICE* intensified during the presidency of *Barack Obama*, when deportations increased significantly, earning him the nickname "deporter-in-chief" among immigration advocates.



However, immigration enforcement became even more politically charged during the presidency of *Donald Trump*, whose campaign rhetoric and policy decisions placed immigration at the centre of national debate and expanded *ICE*'s operational visibility and funding.

In recent months, tensions have escalated following a series of fatal enforcement incidents in *Minneapolis, America*. In January 2026, *Renée Goodwas* was fatally shot by an *ICE* agent during an operation, with the medical examiner later ruling her death a homicide. The incident triggered protests and legal action from state officials seeking greater oversight of federal immigration activity.

Weeks later, *Alex Pretti*, a nurse present during another enforcement operation, was also shot and killed by federal agents, further intensifying public outrage and calls for accountability. Demonstrations and vigils spread beyond Minnesota as communities questioned the use of force in immigration enforcement.

The humanity aspect of this crisis was further highlighted by the viral detention of *Liam Ramos*, a five-year-old child whose custody during the immigration surge sparked widespread sympathy and debate before he was eventually returned home.



These events have reignited longstanding questions surrounding immigration enforcement: the balance between national security and humanitarian responsibility, and the transparency expected from federal agencies operating within civilian communities. As civil rights discussions expand globally, the *ICE* debate reflects a broader struggle present in many countries – how governments manage borders without eroding public trust or human dignity.

As *Martin Luther King Jr.* once warned,

"INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."



Designed by: Rumaisa Vahed



In April 2023 *Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)* and the *Rapid Support Force (RSF)* turned their fight for power into an open war. Tanks rolled into the city of Khartoum and militias stormed the streets. A revolution that once hoped for democracy was hijacked by two rival generals.

The RSF grew out of the same militia linked to *Dafur's* genocide in the 2000's. In 2019 there was a window for a civilian-led democracy for the people of Sudan, which was stolen by the RSF and SAF, who abandoned the power sharing deal with civilian groups.

The RSF is currently backed by the UAE, a country built on the stolen gold and blood of Sudanese people. The UAE sponsors the RSF with arms and money, backing the genocidal militia.

The fight between the two political parties turned into a genocide, harming of each other, but innocent civilians. Sudan currently faces the world's largest hunger and displacement crisis – over 250 000 innocent civilians have been killed, 33.7 million people in need of aid, 13 million children with no school. This is an entire nation starving and displaced.

Sudan is bleeding, bloodstains are seen from space. Mothers are being killed in maternity wards and children are being raped. Men are being buried alive and hung publicly while the UAE provides funds. Atrocities are going unseen, unattended and unpunished. This is not a conflict, it's a massacre.

*NO ONE IS FREE UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE.
LET US KEEP SUDAN IN OUR HEARTS, THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.*

Written by : Yusairah Syed

Designed by : Hasnaa Fadel

IS BLEEDING



Lessons learnt from

Lesser-known Sahabah

عبد الله بن عمر عباد بن بشر

Abbad bin Bishr (RA) was a companion known for his worship and knowledge. One day a stranger stalked the outskirts of the valley in search for *Prophet Muhammad (SAW)* and his companions and found Abbad bin Bishr (RA) standing, absorbed in the recitation of his prayer. He silently drew his bow and fired an arrow which embedded itself in Abbad's (RA) flesh. Calmly, Abbad removed the arrow and went on with his prayer. Two more arrows found their mark. Abbad (RA) pulled them out and completed his recitation. Once his prayer was completed he called to another companion, Amaar (RA) saying "Get up and stand guard in my place I have been wounded."

Ammar (RA) stood up, and seeing them both, the attacker fled into the darkness. Ammar (RA) turned to Abbad (RA) saying, "Why didn't you wake me when you were hit by the first arrow?" Abbad (RA) replied, "I was reciting verses of the *Qur'an* which filled my soul with awe and I did not want to cut short the recitation."

Written by: Yusairah Syed
Designed by: Yusairah Syed

Abdullah bin Umar (RA) was the son of Umar bin al-Khattab (RA) as well as the brother-in-law of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). He was the second most prolific narrator of *ahadith*. He was known for being very particular about following the Sunnah, so much so that he would slaughter his sacrifice at the slaughtering place of the Prophet (SAW). He would make his camel sit at *Al-Batha'* in *Dhul-Hulafa* and offer the prayer because Prophet Muhammad (SAW) used to do the same. The Prophet (SAW) used to go to the Mosque of Quba every Saturday sometimes walking and sometimes riding, hence Abdullah Ibn Umar (RA) used to do the same.

He reported that when a person saw anything in their sleep they would narrate it to the Messenger (SAW). Abdullah (RA) had a longing to see something in a dream that he could narrate to Prophet Muhammad (SAW). One night while sleeping in the mosque he says that "I saw in a dream as if two angels have taken hold of me and they have carried me to the fire, and, lo, it was built like the easing of a well and had 2 pillars like those of a well; and, lo, there were people in it whom I knew and I cried out: I seek refuge with Allah from Hellfire; I seek refuge with Allah from Hellfire. Then another angel joined the 2 others, and said unto me: "You need not fear." I narrated this dream to Hafsa (his sister) and she narrated it to Allah's Messenger (SAW) whereupon Allah's Apostle (SAW) said: "Worthy is this man Abdullah, if only he would pray at night."

After that Abdullah slept only for a small part of the night and he never left *tabajjud*.

نسبه بنت كعب تماهر بنت عمرو

Khansa (RA) was an eloquent *sabaabiyah*. Her beautiful poetry was refined with her sorrow over the death of her brothers *Sakhr* and *Mu'awwiyah* – so that famous Arab poets used to call her "the best of all poets among humans and jinns". She would write elegies for the dead and recite them for the tribe. She gained fame for her heart-melting compositions. Her eyes would carry deep dark circles from all her crying and her deep emotions would bring those around her to cry as well.

After accepting Islam, Khansa (RA) participated in the battle of *Qadisiyah* with her four sons. On the eve of the battle she gathered her sons and said "O, My sons! You embraced Islam and emigrated of your own free will. You must remember that the everlasting life of the Hereafter is far better than the transitory life of this world. When you get up tomorrow morning, be prepared to contribute your best in the battle. Go ahead into the enemy lines, seeking help from Allah. When you see the flames of war rising high, get right into the centre and face the enemy chiefs. In sha Allah you will get your abode in Paradise with honour and success."

The next day, one by one, all her sons were martyred. When Khansa (RA) got the news, she said "Alhamdulillah. Glory to Allah Who has honoured me with their martyrdom. I hope that Allah will unite me with them under the shade of His Mercy."

Nusaybah bint Ka'ab (RA) took part in the battle of *Uhud*, where she contributed by giving water and taking care of the injured. She had no weapons and had not come to fight, but when the archers disobeyed the Prophet Muhammad (SAW), the tide turned against the Muslims and many Sahabah were martyred. The Prophet (SAW) lost his teeth as most of the companions either were martyred or fled the war. When *Umm 'Ammarah (RA)* saw his face bleeding, she dropped her vessel of water and snatched a sword from one of the escaping fighters, and a bow and arrow from another to defend the Prophet (SAW). The Messenger (SAW) said: "Whenever I turned left or right on the day of the battle of *Uhud*, I always saw her (Umm 'Ammarah) fighting in my defence."

That day, she received 13 wounds and a deep neck wound that stayed with her till her death. She also participated in the Battle of *Yamama* where she received 11 wounds and lost her hand during the battle. One of her sons was tortured by *Musaymah* who cut his limbs piece by piece until he died. So *Umm 'Ammarah* kept looking for *Musaymah* through row after row of fighters during the battle and finally killed him with her spear.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE

آیات

Written by: Wafeeqa Mahomed

Designed by: Ilhaam Hajat

The Earth Is Reduced From Its Edges

Qur'an (21:44) mentions the earth being reduced from its edges. Classical scholars interpreted this politically (shrinking disbelieving territories), but the wording also related to physical erosion and geological change. Multiple layers - one verse.

The Throne Was Upon Water

Qur'an (11:7) says Allah's Throne was over water before the heavens and earth were formed. Before stars, before planets, before time as we know it - water existed.

The Sun Is Moving

In Surah Ya-Seen (36:38), the sun is described as "running" toward a resting place. It doesn't say it stands still. The verb implies motion and the sun is in fact traveling through space at immense speed.

The Ant That Spoke

In Surah An-Naml, an ant warns its colony when Prophet Sulayman (AS) approaches. Some early scholars even recorded the ant's name in narrations as *Harisa* - a tiny creature immortalized in revelation.

Hell's Two Breaths

There is a narration that Hell complained of its intensity and was permitted two breaths — one causing extreme heat, one extreme cold. Even temperature extremes are tied to unseen reality.

Iron Was "Sent Down"

In the Qur'an (57:25), Allah says that He "sent down" iron. The wording isn't "created", but rather "sent down." Science now tells us much of Earth's iron originated from stellar explosions and meteorites. The phrasing is precise.

The Last Person to Enter Jannah

A hadith describes the last person admitted to Paradise thinking he's getting something small but Allah gives him ten times the size of this world. Even the last one receives abundance.



The Sky Has Gates

The Qur'an speaks about the gates of heaven being opened and closed (7:40, 54:11). Classical *tafsir* describes literal doors between realms. The seven heavens are structured, not symbolic fluff.

Everything Makes Sujood

The Qur'an says everything in existence prostrates willingly or unwillingly. Some scholars have reflected that even shadows leaning toward the ground during the day are forms of submission.

The Word Counts Are Structured

Scholars observed:

- "Day" appears 365 times
- "Month" appears 12 times
- "Sea" and "land" appear in a ratio close to Earth's actual water-land distribution

Whether seen as miracle or precision — the structure is undeniable.

The Heart Is Linked to Understanding

The Qur'an repeatedly connects understanding to the heart, not the brain. Modern research now shows the heart has its own neural network and communicates with the brain. Islam emphasized the spiritual-intellectual heart centuries ago.

The First Creation Was the Pen

The Prophet (SAW) said that the first thing Allah created was the Pen. It was commanded to write everything until the Day of Judgment. Your entire existence was written before you existed yet you still act with choice. *Qadr* is one of the deepest theological discussions in Islam.

Levels of Jannah Rise With Qur'an

It is said the reciter will be told: "*Recite and rise.*" Each verse elevates their rank. Your memorization becomes architecture in the afterlife.

Ramadhan Habits

Ramadhan shouldn't be a seasonal habit

Every year when Ramadhan approaches, we become different people. We suddenly wake up for *suboor* even when we're extremely tired, we make time for *Salah* while being busy with tests and we try to read *Quran* more consistently than we probably do throughout the year.

But the real questions are:

Why should that version of us only exist in Ramadan?

Why does it suddenly disappear after Eid?



One of the biggest habits that we try to build in Ramadhan is our connection with Allah – to strengthen it. We try our hardest to be consistent with our *Salah*, *Quran*, *dhikr* and to be more sincere when making dua. This is proof that we are capable of making time for our faith even when school work is piling up and with responsibilities at home. We should try to carry this out into the rest of the year. Being "too busy" isn't an excuse, what matters most is that you try to do these even after Eid has passed.

Another habit that we all do in Ramadhan is maintaining self-control and discipline. Fasting isn't just about not eating from sunrise to sunset – it's about not gossiping, swearing, arguing and speaking negatively. If we are capable of stopping all of this for 30 days, what's preventing us from stopping these for the rest of the year? Ramadhan makes us kinder and softer. We give more, forgive more, check in on others more and try to become the best version of ourselves. All of this isn't meant to be temporary.

Ramadhan reminds us that change is possible. It shows us that we are stronger than our bad habits and a lot closer to Allah than we think. Ramadhan is a month of training ourselves to carry that same discipline, kindness and connection with Allah into the rest of the year.

If we can be the best versions of ourselves for one month, we can certainly try to keep a part of that version alive all year.



Muslim Content Creators

Daytona Alanezi

@noorahgrandma1  

Known for her archery skills but loved for spreading Islamic knowledge, Daytona Alanezi took on the challenge of becoming an Islamic influencer in a world full of Islamophobia, prejudice and stereotypes.



Spreading the word of the Qur'an on social media is no easy feat, but when *Daytona* does it, she does it right. Ranging across different platforms like Instagram and TikTok, she not only speaks of Islam, but offers her own advice on deen and perseverance in a time where distractions from our faith are most prevalent. *Daytona* also adds her own humorous comments to lighten the mood when offering an Islamic perspective on worldly affairs. You might wonder how she retains all this knowledge - well that's with the help of the app Deen Buddy. Throughout many of her videos, she consults with Deen Buddy to provide Qur'anic verses and *Sunnahs* that we can reflect upon and implement into our daily lives. *Daytona* never misses a beat when it comes to making Islamic content and guidance accessible to all.

One can often find her catching fish on the ocean-shores with her impressive archery skills, or going horse riding in serene gardens in her videos. *Daytona* sure knows how to make a good first impression! This is not only a fun hobby, but a *Sunnah* and highly encouraged by the Prophet (SAW), as reminded by *Daytona*. She reminds us how every action has a consequence, and how when we do something, we should do it for the sake and remembrance of Allah.

When she isn't playing *Katniss* from the *Hunger Games*, or riding on the back of a horse, she's making matcha while sharing the stories of the Prophets and reminding us that before we are people with busy lives, we are Muslims. Truly, *Daytona* has something for everyone.

If you think it stops there, you are highly mistaken. *Daytona* is not your ordinary Islamic influencer, but an entrepreneur at the young age of 20. She launched her business Grandma Remedies which focuses on naturally-sourced products to help women feel more confident in their hijabs. This is one small step for *Daytona*, and one giant leap for the women of Islam! *Daytona* stands as a symbol of how patience, consistency and determination will eventually be rewarded, especially when faced with the tough challenges of today.

If you're looking for someone to help you strengthen your Iman, provide good advice, and provide new charity organizations to donate to for the people of Palestine, *Daytona Alanezi* is your girl. Find her on Instagram and TikTok @noorahgrandma1.

WORLDS APART

He runs in the search of comfort – the feeling of familiarity and the fragile hope of acceptance. Dragged across a floor of stone, his cries of abandonment pierce through a screen until it is no longer him screaming, rather us feeling something we recognise too deeply. While one searches for the company of a mother, the other walks away. The only thought screaming within us now is “*Why?*” What could the mountains possibly hold for him?

The choice made over warmth, over certainty. He does not run. He does not look back. Simply he walks away from the certainty of belonging. The comfort of being held within a “we”. Yet the lone figure walks into the white silence, the need to become an “*I*”.

Our baby monkey Punch strikes – a crack in the air, like thunder that doesn't warn before it breaks. It is the wild electricity of being pressed too close to another body. Fur against fur. Spark against spark. And still, he walks. The mountains loom like questions without answers, like a dream with no promise. The single departure leaves the quiet tension between wanting to belong and needing to become.

One chooses impact.

The other chooses distance.

The monkey leaves a bruise in the moment.

The penguin leaves a gap in the horizon

And somehow, what leaves without a sound stays the longest.

MAY ALLAH ACCEPT FROM US AND FROM YOU.

تَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ مِنَّا وَمِنْكُمْ

As this beloved month of Ramadhan comes to an end, our hearts are filled with mixed emotions – we already begin to miss the peaceful nights of *Taraweeh* and *Tabajjud*, and the warm *iftār* gatherings that brought us together. We remember the anticipation we felt before its arrival, the honour of being granted the opportunity to worship Allah (SWT), the sadness we felt as this month departs, and we the joy of celebrating Eid with our families. We will miss the unique feeling of Ramadhan, a feeling that reminded us how beautiful it is to be close with Allah. Within all these emotions lie important questions we should ask ourselves:

Were our efforts enough? Were they accepted? Did Ramadhan truly change us?

Ramadhan is not only about fasting from food and drink, but also fasting from bad habits and negative thoughts. This month teaches patience, compassion, and self-control. During Ramadhan we pray more, read the *Qur'an*, give charity, and try to be more patient. We avoid bad language and poor behaviour. These actions show the best version of ourselves. However, if we return to our old ways after Ramadhan, it means we did not fully understand the purpose of this holy month. Ramadhan is meant to train us to be better Muslims for the entire year, not just during these 30 days, as it should not be that we forget everything once the month ends. Ramadan teaches us to be aware of Allah at all times, and this awareness should stay with us throughout the year.

The true success of this month is seen after Ramadhan ends. It appears in a change in our *akblaq*, improvement in our prayers, and in avoiding actions that are haram and displease Allah. Even small changes matter to Allah when they are sincere. We should strive to make every day a step closer to Allah. As we move forward after Eid, let us carry the spirit of Ramadhan within us.

Ramadhan also teaches us to forgive and remember that we are all servants of Allah (SWT). We should stay humble and always keep our hearts pure. Our true reward is with Allah (SWT), so we should focus on doing good sincerely for Him and let go of anything that doesn't benefit us or bring us closer to Him – even if it's someone who you truly love and care for.

Throughout this blessed month, our hands were raised in *du'ā'*, asking Allah for forgiveness and guidance, and for this month to be a means of purification of our hearts. Now let us raise our hands in remembrance of our brothers and sisters who continue to suffer around the world. As we celebrate the end of Ramadhan, we must remember that while we enjoy peace and happiness, many others face hardship and loss. We should keep them in our prayers, support them in any way we can, and never forget that the Muslim Ummah is one body that shares each other's struggles.



Milk pudding
with dates

Ingredients:

- 5 cups milk
- 1/3 cup Vermicelli (crushed)
- 4 tbsp ghee
- Kajoor (dates)
- 2 tsp white/ brown sugar or condensed milk
- 1/4 tsp ground cardamom powder for aroma
- Chopped nuts (optional)

Directions:

1. In a heavy-bottomed pan, bring the milk to a boil. Lower the heat and let it simmer for 10-15 minutes until it reduces slightly and becomes creamy.
2. Heat 2 tbsp of ghee in a separate pan. Add the chopped nuts and dates. Roast for 1-2 minutes until they turn golden. Remove and set aside.
3. In the same pan, add another 2 tbsp of ghee. Add the vermicelli and roast it on low-medium heat until it turns a deep golden brown.
4. Add the roasted vermicelli and half of the roasted nuts/dates into the simmering milk. Stir well.
5. Let the mixture cook on low heat for 5-8 minutes until the vermicelli is soft and the milk has thickened.
6. Add the sugar (or condensed milk) and cardamom powder. Cook for another 2-3 minutes to allow the sugar to dissolve and flavours to blend.
7. Enjoy!

Book Recommendations

Written by: Fatima Zahra Watson
Designed by: Hareem Zaidi

1. Allah Loves – Omar Suleiman

The book Allah loves talks about the types of believers Allah loves most. Allah loves his creation especially his *Ummah* but among the *Ummah* there are certain believers Allah loves even more. This book teaches good character and reminds us how to please Allah. Allah loves is part of a book series written by Omar Suleiman, a motivational speaker and an author.

2. Ramadan Reflections – Aliyah Umm Raiyaan

Ramadan reflections is a journal to guide you through Ramadhan and deepen your bond with Allah. This book includes exercises, quotes and spiritual wisdom of the *Qur'aan* and *sunnah* of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). If you are struggling with spirituality and connection during the month of Ramadhan, if you feel empty or lost - read this book. Aliyah Umm Raiyaan is a reverted author who writes about faith, healing and spiritual growth.



1. Purification of the Heart – Hamzah Yusuf

This is a well-known Islamic book that talks about character and inner self. The book is used with a poem that discusses common spiritual diseases of the heart. Purification of the Heart talks about envy, pride, anger, greed and curing these using Islamic teachings. One of the strongest parts of this book is how it connects everyday feelings and struggles to spiritual growth. It encourages readers to reflect on their intentions, actions and relationship with Allah. Purification of the Heart is written by Hamza Yusuf who is an accomplished American Islamic Scholar.



Video Recommendations

Written by: Taha MD Zahir

Designed by: Hareem Zaidi

As Ramadhan comes to an end, we reflect on every deed we have done in this blessed month. To maximise our good deeds, especially in the last 10 nights, here are 3 YouTube mini-series that are a must watch.

1. The Quran Has It All – Dr. Haifa Younis

“One of the names of Ramadhan is the month of *Quran*”, a quote from the YouTube series The *Quran* Has It All by Dr. Haifa Younis. In this series Dr. Haifa Younis asks the question if we truly use this book as the ultimate guide to our lives; then she gives us a helping hand and changes the way we look at the *Quran*. The title of the series is exactly as it says. Each episode explores and analyses a section of the *Quran* answering questions from many muslims across the world. Dr. Haifa Younis brilliantly responds to these questions not with her personal opinion but factual information directly from the *Quran*. The series offers guidance and opens our minds to understanding the *Quran* better.



2. Why Me? - Omar Suleiman

“You will never understand why you are here, if you don’t know the one who brought you here,” – a truly philosophical mini-series that gives a logical understanding of human purpose and dealing with negative thoughts and feelings. The series is inspirational and tells us to look at the brighter side of things. In this life-changing Ramadhan series, join Dr. Omar Suleiman to transform your perspective on life, qadar, and what has been decreed for you. Know this, the world isn’t against you – everything has only been perfectly set up for you.

3. Surah Al-Jumu’ah - Nouman Ali Khan

A detailed analysis on the 62nd chapter of the *Quran*, Nouman Ali Khan emphasises the importance of this surah in an engaging and academic manner which the viewer will find easy to understand. He presents extremely well the complex ideas of the surah, making the viewer feel as if they already have background information on the topics discussed. This mini-series is a thought-provoking analysis of the surah which will leave you wanting to understand and analyse even more chapters of the *Quran*. Every minute is worth watching as we gain a vast amount of knowledge just from a few hours. Highly recommended for people who enjoy watching analysis videos.

Arabian Nights

Written by:
Nadirah Haffajee

As the sun sets over the horizon,
A new world is brought to life –
One that only exists
When the moon rises in the evening sky.

The sand dunes are rising
And falling like the sea,
With soft ripples in the sand
Like a beautiful harmony.

The marketplace is bustling,
Travelers are passing by
With the wind carrying their voices
Into the Arabian night.

Tents are blowing in the breeze,
Arabian carpets are painting the sand
With colours bright and bold
And lanterns being the stars of the land.

The Atay tea is being brewed
With its minty aroma travelling far and wide,
On and on as it blows through the wind
Like a desert bird soaring through the sky.

And as the orange sun rises,
And dawn brings her light,
We say good-bye to the world we once knew
As it evanesces – soft and quiet.

*Surely, there is nothing better
Than the Arabian night.*

تَزْفَرُ الْخِيَامُ فِي النَّسِيمِ،
وَيَفْتَرِشُ السَّجَادُ الْعَرَبِيُّ الرِّمَالَ
كَلَوْحَةٍ زَاهِيَةٍ تَتَلَأَلُ بِالْأَلْوَانِ الْجَرِيَّةِ،
وَتُصْبِحُ الْفَوَانِيسُ نُجُومًا تَتَوَهَّجُ
فِي أَرْضٍ تَتَرَيَّنُ بِالسَّحْرِ وَالْجَمَالِ.

وَيُعْلَى شَيْءٌ آتِي،
فَتَنْتَشِرُ رَائِحَتُهُ النَّاعِمَةُ
فِي الْفَضَاءِ بَعِيدًا،
تَسْرِي مَعَ الرِّيحِ
كَطَائِرٍ صَحْرَاوِيٍّ يُحَلِّقُ فِي السَّمَاءِ الْعَالِيَةِ.

ثُمَّ، مَا إِنَّ يَبْرُغَ الْفَجْرِ بَنُورَهُ،
وَتَشْرُقُ الشَّمْسُ بِلَوْنِهَا الْبُرْتُقَالِي،
حَتَّى نُوَدِّعَ ذَلِكَ الْعَالَمَ السَّحْرِيَّ
الَّذِي مَا لَبِثَ أَنْ تَلَاشَى بِهِدْوٍ...

وَحَقًّا،
لَا شَيْءَ أَجْمَلَ
مِنَ اللَّيْلَةِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ.

الليالي العربية

Arabic translation
by: Ms Abeer Bakheit

عِنْدَمَا تَغِيبُ الشَّمْسُ وَتَتَوَارَى خَلْفَ الْأَفْقِ،
يَنْبَثِقُ عَالَمٌ جَدِيدٌ يُوَلَّدُ مِنْ رَحِمِ اللَّيْلِ،
عَالَمٌ لَا يَظْهَرُ إِلَّا إِذَا أَظَلَّ الْقَمَرُ
وَتَرَاءَى فِي سَمَاءِ الْمَسَاءِ.
تَرْتَفِعُ الْكُثْبَانُ الرَّمْلِيَّةُ وَتَهْبِطُ
كَأَمْوَاجِ الْبَحْرِ،

وَتَرْسُمُ الرِّيحُ عَلَى وَجْهِ الرِّمَالِ
تَمُوجَاتٍ رَقِيقَةً كَأَنَّهَا أَلْحَانٌ عَذْبَةٌ
تَتَرَنَّمُ فِي صَمْتِ الصَّحْرَاءِ.
وَفِي السُّوقِ، تَضُجُّ الْحَيَاةُ بِالْحَرَكَةِ،

وَيَمْضِي الْمَسَافِرُونَ فِي دُرُوبِهِمْ
وَالرِّيحُ تَحْمِلُ أَصْوَاتَهُمْ وَخُطَاهُمْ
إِلَى أَعْمَاقِ اللَّيْلِ الْعَرَبِيَّةِ.

Artwork ideas

Written by: Juwayria Dawood



Materials:

1. An old tray, box, or photo frame
2. Decorative paper (tissue paper, printed patterns, or napkins)
3. Glue mixed with a little water
4. Paintbrush
5. Clear sealant or extra glue for finishing

Decoupage

Steps

1. Clean the surface of your tray, box or photo frame.
2. Cut out crescent moons, lanterns, or patterned shapes from the decorative paper.
3. Brush a thin layer of glue onto the surface.
4. Carefully place the paper on top and smooth out any wrinkles.
5. Brush another thin layer of glue over it to seal.
6. Let it dry completely



Steps

1. First, carefully cut open the can and flatten the metal sheet. (Be cautious, as the edges may be sharp).
2. Trim the edges neatly and fold the sides inward to prevent sharp corners.
3. On a separate piece of paper, sketch a design. This could include crescent moons, stars, lantern shapes, domes, or geometric patterns.
4. Place your metal sheet on top of a soft surface, such as folded newspaper or cardboard.
5. Using a pen from the outside of the can, trace over your design firmly. Pressing down creates a raised (embossed) effect on the opposite side.
6. Once the design is complete, you may paint the metal in gold, bronze, or deep blue for a more festive look.
7. Attach or curve the sheet into a lantern shape and place a tealight or fairy lights inside.

Embossing

Materials:

1. Empty can
2. Scissors (strong enough to cut thin metal)
3. A pen (that no longer works)
4. Paper and pencil (for sketching designs)
5. Paint (optional)
6. Tealight candle or fairy lights

Designed by: Yusairah Syed & Ilhaam Hajat