



Muslim News

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New Zealand Baitulmal launched in Auckland

The long awaited New Zealand Baitulmal was finally launched in Auckland on Sunday 9th October 2011.

The occasion, which took place at The Langhama Hotel, saw over 200 guests that included the Chief launcher Pehin Sri Abdul Tayib Mahmoud, New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Rt Hon. Tim Groser as well as the deputy President of RISEAP.

The Chief launcher Pehin Sri who had always encouraged FIANZ to consider the establishment of a Baitulmal made a personal donation of \$10000 towards the launch and another \$30000 on behalf of Sarawak Baitulmal. Other donors at the launch were Dato Robert who donated \$5000 as well as FIANZ that donated \$10000 towards the launch.

In his remark at the occasion Chief Launcher Pehin Sri congratulated FIANZ and the New Zealand Muslim community on what he described as a 'noble effort'.

Pehin Sri added that 'in this global world what you make of your life is how you organize it'. In that sense, according to Pehin Sri, Baitulmal is not only for the money but for the sense of organization that it brings to the Muslim community'.

While appreciating the treatment of native people in New Zealand since the signing of the treaty of Waitangi, Pehin Sri urged Muslims to be loyal to their hosts.

Making his own remarks at the launch, FIANZ President Dr Anwar Ghani disclosed that the establishment of Baitulmal is informed by the need to be compassionate towards the weak in society. He said after Tawhid and Risalah compassion is the next most important aspect of Islam.

In his address at the launch, New Zealand Minister of Trade Rt Hon Tim Groser congratulated FIANZ on this effort and further observed that the world is witnessing huge shift in economic and political power and it is therefore important for the country to be establishing linkages with emerging economies including Muslim countries that are already 'our trading partners'.

Making his won remark at the launch Sheikh Khalil reminded the audience that Baitulmal is important because it is the sunnah (deed) of the prophet (PBUH_ who 'took zakat to distribute among the fukarat or needy'.



President of FIANZ attends meeting of Muslim Scholars and Thinkers

Dr Anwar Ghani, President of FIANZ recently attended a meeting of Muslim Scholars and Thinkers called by the World Muslim League to address the issue "Muslim World - Issues and solutions". Dr Anwar and Sk Mohammad Amir were invited by Rabitah to provide their views on the growing concerns particularly in the Muslim countries.

On behalf of the King Abdullah, H.R.H Prince Khalid Al-Faisal Bin Aziz Al-Saud, Governor of Makkah opened the conference which was attended by 200 delegates from Muslim majority and Muslim minority countries. In a communiqué King Abdullah called for combining the efforts of scholars, institutions and leaders in finding solutions of problems and reformation of Ummah.

He emphasised to have better engagement with our youth, to apply moderate face of Islam in



Dr Anwar with Mohammed Ali (President of IDB) in Jeddah

Aziz Bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh addressed the audience and reminded that Muslims shall seek solutions from the Quran and tradition of the prophet (PBUH) which has solutions for all times and for every situation.

all aspects of life with the aim of complying with Allah's commandments and achieve unity discard disagreement which may lead to unjust sectarian and petty partisan tendencies which will lead to destruction of Muslim unity. The Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia Sheikh Abdul

France to Build Islamic Center in Paris

PARIS, 27 Sept (IINA)-Paris plans to build a new Islamic center to address two issues, a dearth of mosques for the city's sizable Muslim community and a new law banning street prayers. In the interim, Muslims been invited to worship in an unusual venue – an old fire station at the edge of the city.

For many practicing Muslims in Paris, Friday prayers means having to pack in overflowing mosques. Or when there is no more space, by rolling out prayer rugs on the city's sidewalks.

A new law has gone into force this month, banning France's estimated 5 million Muslims from praying on the streets – in line with the country's separation of religion and state.

French authorities have offered a stop-gap solution, which is the cavernous quarters of an old fire station in northern Paris. Hundreds of people emerged from the facility one recent sunny afternoon, spilling into a wide boulevard just a stone's throw from the city's ring road.

Australian Muslims have new grand mufti

MELBOURNE (Australia), 19 Sept (IINA)-Australia's Muslim community has a new spiritual leader after the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC) elected a Melbourne-based scholar as its Grand Mufti.

Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamed, who was born in Egypt, has been appointed to the position after a unanimous vote from imams in Sydney over the weekend.

Council spokesman Sheikh Mohamadu Saleem says imams Australia-wide voted for Dr Mohamed following the resignation of the previous grand mufti, Sheikh Fehmi, due to bad health.

Sheikh Saleem says it's an important position.

"[He] is the figurehead, our spiritual head of the Muslims and also he enjoys the respect and the regard from the general Australian community.

Dr Abu Mohamed attained a PhD in Islamic Studies from Al Azhar University in Cairo and has been in Australia for around 20 years.

News in Pictures: Eid celebration at the parliament



Eid celebrations in Otago

Alhumdulillah similar to every year, Eid was welcomed with excitement from everyone in the Otago community, even though it was sad to see the end of Ramadhan. Eid salah was prayed in Al-Huda masjid with takbeer starting at 7.30 am and salah at 7.45 am. Our very own Imam, Sheikh Asrarul-Haque Obaidullah led the salah, followed by a very educational Khutbah.

Apart from visiting all the family and friends, it was a fun filled day organized mostly by the Saudi Club. The Saudi Club offered a very delicious breakfast at the Al-Huda masjid followed by a children's fair in the University campus with bouncy castles and more. The evening finished with a dinner night at the Otago museum with mass attendance.

Part of the annual Eid celebrations, the Otago Muslim Association hosted a community get together with sausage sizzles and burger patties the following Saturday after Salah Zohor. Due to harsh weather conditions the event was held indoors,

but was enjoyed by everyone. The purpose was to get everyone in the community together and be part of a very happy occasion. And to finish off the celebrations, the Muslim University Students Association organized an Indoor Volleyball Tournament.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed financially towards the success of Iftaar in Otago and also to the hardworking cooks for volunteering and making sure delicious food was prepared for the community daily. We also appreciate all the hard work from our volunteers who cleaned the mosque and the kitchen, and are continuing to do so weekly. Jazakallah Khair brothers and sisters, may Allah S.W.T reward you for your selfless efforts.

I would also like to take this opportunity and inform the rest of New Zealand community to check out our website which is up and running, thanks to the efforts of some of our community members (<http://otagomuslims.org/>).-- Mohammed Zubair Rizwan



The photo shows Sheikh Anwar and Br Umarji Mohammed in the stall organized by Masjid At Taqwa during the eid festival organized by Muslim Council of Auckland (MCA) in conjunction with FIANZ and Auckland Council

The Khutba delivered by As Sheikh Muhammed Shafee, Imam of Ranui Masjid on the day of Eid al Fitr prayer organised by NZMA in Te Pai Stadium, Auckland on Aug 31, 2011.

Dear brothers & Sisters

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmathullahi Wabarakhatuhu All Praise due to Allah, the Lord of the world who gave us the two joyful festivals to celebrate and unite together. Peace and blessings to our last and the seal of the prophet Muhammed SAAW and those who follow his legacy, mission and vision.

Muslim world is celebrating the Eid festival with us today after the completion of the holy month of Ramadan. This is the day that we all enjoy by showing the unity of the Muslim Ummah.

Abu Hurairah (RA) says it was reported that the Prophet Muhammed (SAAW) said 'When the eve of Eid al Fitr comes all the angels rejoice. Allah SWT asks Oh! Angels what is the reward of those servants who have completed their work...? The angels reply Oh Allah they must be fully rewarded. Allah says. Be witness I have forgiven them all. (Muslim)

Dear brothers & sisters

Eid al Fitr is a joyful occasion among the global Muslim community. During the Eid Muslims rejoice a month long achievements which was performed only for the sake of Allah SWT. For Muslims, Eid is a thanksgiving and gratitude and marks that day as a personal control day over their desires.

During the month of Ramadan fasting provided the opportunity to better themselves and to renew their commitments and devotions to Allah SWT. So that Muslims may emerge with a new motivation and vision to live as a role model to himself and his family. Though Eid al Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, Muslims leave this blessed month having improved and developed excellent moral characters, habits and examples of doing good deeds.

Brothers & Sisters

The Eid day is not only the day of celebration but it is a self evaluation day for all Muslims of the world. Muslims can reflect on the good things that they have accomplished and attained positive changes that made them look to plan their future with the same level of commitment practised during the month of Ramadan.

Ramadan come only once a year but honesty, sincerity, consciousness of Allah, generosity, piety, that all Muslim learnt and practised during the month should last throughout the year. This is the greatest success of the holy month of Ramadan for Muslims.

We also must think on this day about our fellow Muslim brothers and sisters who are unable to celebrate this Eid with us due to civil wars and violences in their countries such as Libya, Syria, Iraq,

and Palestine, Somalia. They could be attacked at any time as they live in fear and panic. Our thoughts are with those vulnerable Muslims and our duas are with them. May Allah SWT make their life easier by making better standard of healthy life style.

In the same way we have to consider our fellow Muslims who have no means of food like Somalis and other poor countries in the globe. We are enjoying this Eid with ample of food and other enjoyment; Al hamdulillah. But they are under poverty and starvation. For them daily existence and the survival is continues fasting.

Brothers & Sisters

We must ask ourselves: are we really grateful to Allah about the blessings that we enjoy each and every moment...? Have we adequately expressed our thanks to Him? This is the day that we have to think about it. The love of Allah to his creation is beyond the human imagination. We cannot measure His blessings. He created us, takes good care of us; He made us the best form of creation and gave us all the senses and facilities for our growth. By Allah's mercy only can we get the real guidance and the right path. The mercy of Allah gives us hope and peace, courage and confidence; this enables us to remedy our grieves and sorrows and to overcome our difficulties to obtain success and happiness throughout our life.

In short brothers and sisters, the love and mercy of Allah upon his creations is active everywhere and all time in every aspect of our life. Unfortunately most of us do not understand that as we take it for granted. How beautiful life can be after the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims start to practice the righteousness which was the fullest expectation of Ramadan on the day of Eid. This will lead the Muslim society with solidarity and security in all levels, the nation with Islamic brotherhood, and the international community with hopes and harmony. In Sura Al-e-Imran the Quran says; "And hold fast, all of you together to the rope of Allah, and be not divided among yourselves." (3:103). In Mishqat Sharife there is a tradition of the Holy Prophet which says; "The Muslims are like a body; if one limb aches, the whole body aches." Then the Messenger of Allah says; "whoever does not care about the affairs of the Muslims is not one of them." From the above Quranic facts we deduce the result that Islam believes in the unity of all humans and preaches peace, justice and equality.

May Allah accept all our deeds and our actions and bless all of us with Jannah al Firdows.

Ameen

News in Pictures: Eid prayer in Hamilton



Hamilton community prayed salatul Eid at the iconic Hamilton gardens pavilion hall. About 1500 people joined the prayers which were lead by Br Mohammed Akabai. After the salaah, community members visited each other places and children enjoyed gifts and sweets handed out by family members and friends.



President Br Ismail Gamadid used the occasion to convey the message of unity within and with our fellow New Zealanders. He emphasised role of FIANZ and also shared the short and long-term vision of the Waikato Muslim Association with the community. Local member of parliament David Bennett also visited the prayer place and mixed and mingled with the community after the prayers.

Our own Sony Bill Williams (SBW), a sensational All Black and Boxer attended Juma'a prayers at Ponsonby Masjid during the Rugby World Cup. He is pictured here with Br Hanif Patel a well known businessman in Auckland"
Wassalam



Meeting of the OIC Permanent and Independent Human Rights Commission to set out the mechanisms of its work

JEDDAH, 5 Dec.(IINA)-The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will convene a preparatory and orientation meeting of its Permanent and Independent Human Rights Commission at the headquarters of the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah on Wednesday, 7 December 2011. The establishment of the Committee was announced during the meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Astana last June.



to the OIC General Secretariat which in turn will present them before the next meeting in Jakarta.

Informed sources at the OIC General Secretariat said that the internal regulations which will be adopted in Jakarta, will also be presented to the next session of the Council of Foreign Ministers to be held in Djibouti mid 2012. The sources added that the preparatory meeting in Jeddah would take the format of brainstorming sessions. It also mentioned that the

members of the Permanent and Independent Human Rights Commission will hold their meetings annually.

Worth mentioning that the headquarters of the Committee will be temporarily housed at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah until the OIC member states agree on the location of the permanent headquarters of the Committee.

The preparatory meeting will finalize the broad issues of the first working official session of the Committee's meeting which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, during the first quarter of 2012. The Committee's eighteen-member delegation will discuss the mandate of the newly-established Committee, in addition to its drafts statute and rules of procedures as well as logistical aspects related to the convening of the next meeting in Jakarta. The outcomes of Wednesday's meeting will be presented

ISESCO workshop on ways to foster youth leaders' role in promoting a culture of dialogue

RABAT, 9 Nov.(IINA)-The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), in cooperation with the Khartoum-based Munazzamat Al-Da'wa Al-Islamiyya, will hold a regional workshop on ways to foster the role of youth leaders in promoting a culture of dialogue and exposure to others, in Khartoum during the period from 5 through 8 December 2011.

The workshop will bring together a host of youth leaders and representatives of associations and bodies operating in youth promotion in Sudan, Egypt, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chad, Kenya and Nigeria.

The Sudanese Minister of Youth and Sports will open this workshop, to be placed under his patronage, in which ISESCO will be represented by Dr Abduldaïm Omar Hassan, professor of information sciences at the University of Khartoum.

Kuwaiti ambassador discusses Muslims issues with Australian Mufti

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Nov. (IINA)-Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand Khalid Al-Shaibani met on Monday with the Grand Mufti of Australia Dr. Ibrahim Abu Mohamed and discussed with him issues and challenges Muslims face in Australia.

Ambassador Al-Shaibani told KUNA by telephone that the meeting reviewed the conditions of Muslims in Australia and praised efforts by Australian Muslim clerics toward the Muslim minority despite their cultural and ethnic differences.

Also, Al-Shibani expressed satisfaction with the freedom of religious practice, tolerance, and beliefs that the Australian government provides to all residents, noting that Kuwait had and will always support Muslims in the Australian continent and around the world.

The Grand Mufti of Australia has been invited to visit Kuwait and meet with officials at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, continued Ambassador Al-Shibani.

News in Pictures: Launch of Baitulmal, New Zealand



Islam calls for democracy and respect for human rights, says Al-Azhar official

CAIRO, 21 Sept (IINA)- Chairman of Azhar University Osama al-Abd said the January 25 Revolution's aim is to achieve reform and a better future for Egyptians. He added Islam calls for consultation in politics through which Egyptians can achieve development and improvement.



He added Islam calls to achieve democracy and social peace and refuses fanaticism. It urges Muslims to respect the principles of human rights and to accept one other. It calls to achieve justice and avoid discrimination since it is a moderate religion. He made these statements during a meeting with an American delegation composed of

four journalists.

The chairman of Azhar University said Al-Azhar's role is to spread the moderate principles of Islam and refuse the extremism. He added the basic principles of human rights are implemented in Egypt, according to Islamic law, which calls for equality among all people.

About the political trend of Azhar, al-Abd said the Islamic institution achieves public interest so it calls to achieve international peace and development of Egypt. He added Al-Azhar supports tourism as part of Egypt's kind culture while tourists should respect its traditions.

Islamic 'Facebook' to be launched in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, 15 Nov. (IINA)-Salamworld, an Islamic social networking website, is set to start its journey from Istanbul.

The website is funded by prominent Muslim businessmen, with over 100,000 people waiting for membership. Based in Istanbul, Salamworld will have working branches in many other cities, including Cairo, London, Moscow, Dubai and New York.

The site will be streamed in 15 languages. The site's name "Salamworld" means "Hello world," and the motto for the site reads "no politics, no bans, no limits."

Salamworld aims to attract 100 million users by the end of its first three year term, targeting Muslim youth, intellectual leaders and non-Muslims wanting to learn more about Islam.

Inspire youth, IDB chief tells community leaders

JEDDAH, 16 Nov. (IINA)-The president of the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has emphasized the significant role played by his bank to enhance solidarity and cooperation among Muslim countries.

"This mission is far more important now than before as a result of the increasing challenges faced by the Ummah," said Ahmed Muhammad Ali while addressing Muslim community leaders from various countries.

"We consider you as ambassadors of IDB and request you to carry its mission to your countries and communities," the president said at the concluding session of a three-day community development workshop organized by the bank.

Ali said Muslim NGOs have a big role to play in realizing the bank's mission and objectives. "I have great pleasure to welcome you to the IDB, which is an institution of the Ummah. You came here because you believed in the bank's mission."

ANGER CONTROL IN ISLAM

(Part One)

BY FARID AHMED

WHAT IS ANGER?

Anger is a natural emotion every human experiences. It can be felt in mild form like displeasure or irritation. But a full blown anger leads to violence, destruction and so many harmful consequences.

HOW DO WE KNOW WE ARE ANGRY?

We know when we are angry from many symptoms. When we are angry we feel the heat inside us, it sparks through mind and body like fire. It makes our voice louder, our language hostile, our facial expression tough-unpleasant, our eyes staring, it may cause in some of us body shaking and some may attack physically or abuse verbally.

Anger increases our heart rate and blood pressure, it ceases the rational mind and pushes us to think and act fast without proper thinking about the situation and so on.

WHAT IS THE LIKELY RESULT OF ANGER?

The result of anger is not pleasant. For example:

- Regular episode of anger make people ill and they suffer from various kinds of diseases. It can also aggravate sickness. Anger may cause sleeplessness because of the angry feeling going on and on in the angry person's mind.
- Anger may make us think in a hurry and saying or doing things very wrong and regret later. Sometimes such regret could be for ever. Sometimes we can fix the problem and sometimes we can't fix it at all.
- Anger burns good things like fire does. Anger burns the loving relationship, the friendship, the respect and trust. With one bad snap, the hard work of whole life may get ruined.
- Anger doesn't bring peace, harmony or happiness in a person and around the person. An angry person is like a fire furnace boiling inside with no peace; it radiates the heat to those around him/her causing them to be unhappy as well.
- With anger we may suppress others but we can't win their hearts. It rather hurt others' feeling and pushes them away from us.

WHO LOVES AN ANGRY PERSON?

Does anyone like an angry person? Not that I know of. Children don't love an angry parent, wife never loves an angry, violent husband, friend never loves angry friend, and employee never love a grumpy angry boss, people never like an angry leader and so on.

If you want to be a cool mum, dad, uncle or aunt or friend then you can't afford to be an angry person.

An angry person is an unhappy person and he/she radiates unhappiness to others around him/her. Angry

person is like a furnace boiling inside with heat and releases that heat to the surrounding causing discomfort to others as well.

WHY ANGER IS HARMFUL TO OUR IMAAN [FAITH]?

Holy prophet (saw) said in a hadis, narrated by Bahj Ibn Hakeem (Rah.A) through his father: "Anger spoils the Imaan as sabeer (One kind of bitter fruit) spoils the (taste of) honey."

How does anger spoil the Imaan? The answer is, Imaan (Islamic faith) is basically: (1) believing in Allah's code, (2) declaring the acceptance of Allah's code and (3) acting according to Allah's code (that has been taught by Holy Prophet Muhammad s.a.w).

Anger prevents us from the actions that Allah (s.w.t) wants from us for our own good. If we follow Allah's commands in our life, we gain happiness in this life and also we earn happiness in everlasting paradise. So anger spoils our happiness and achievement in both lives.

Some examples are as follows:

- Anger spoils our concentration in prayer. When we are angry we can't concentrate on prayer very well due to the angry feeling in the mind. Allah (s.w.t) made it a condition for paradise. Allah says in holy Quran [23.1-2] "Successful are those believers who concentrate in their prayers."

So anger spoils our success.

- Anger takes away our ability and composure of speaking in the best manner. Angry talk is cynical, sarcastic and hostile. It is not good for peaceful relationship neither is it good for earning paradise. Whereas Allah commands us to talk in the nicest and best manner to avoid disharmony, and to prevent Satan coming in between us. Allah says in Holy Quran [17.53] "And say to My servants that they (Only) say those words that are best: Verily Satan brings disharmony between them."

So anger prevents us following Allah's orders in our manner of talk.

- Anger destroys the spirit of Muslim brotherhood. Muslims unity is obligatory on Muslims. Any angry outburst, sentiment, impulsiveness or emotional imbalance that destroys Muslim unity must be avoided. Allah (swt) says in Holy Quran [49.10] "The believers are a single brotherhood. So make reconciliation (Offering peace and agreement) between your two brothers: and fear Allah, that you may receive (His) mercy."

An angry person can't offer peace and can't receive Allah's mercy.

WHAT ISLAM TEACHES ABOUT ANGER?

Islamic teaching comes from the creator of mankind, Almighty, All wise Allah who knows His creation best and

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offers them the best unerring guidance. Allah (swt) guides mankind to control their anger for their own good.

- In Holy Quran, Allah calls mankind to believe in His guidance and to compete for His forgiveness and paradise by controlling their anger. [3.133-134] "Be quick in the race for forgiveness from your Lord, and for a Garden whose width is that (of the whole) heavens and of the earth, prepared for the righteous and those firm in their faith.

Those who spend (freely in the cause of Allah), whether there is plenty, or there is little; who controls anger and pardon (all) man: Verily Allah loves those who do good."

- Allah's holy messenger taught men not to be angry. In a Hadis in Sahih Bhukhari, narrated by Abu Huraira (R.A) that a person came to holy prophet (s.a.w) and asked, O messenger of Allah! Please advise me. Holy messenger said to him, "Don't be angry". The man asked

for advice few times and holy prophet gave him the same advice "Don't be angry".

WHAT DO WE LEARN?

So we learn that Islam teaches us:

- To control our anger
- And not to be angry.
- To be a peaceful person
- So that we can enjoy peace and happiness inside us and we can radiate the peace and happiness to others around us. The result of it would create a peaceful environment, a loving relationship, strong bond between family members, neighbors, friends and societies.
- For frustration, dissatisfaction Islam teaches us to be forgiving, to let go and to move on through the peaceful path.

[End of part one]

Oman Islamic Economic Forum set for December 17-18

MASCAT, 16 Nov.(IINA)-In keeping with the ongoing efforts prior to the introduction of Islamic finance in Oman, Amjaad Development has organised the Oman Islamic Economic Forum 2011 on December 17 and 18.

The event will be held at Al Bustan Palace Ritz Carlton Hotel and see 680 participants, including local and global organisations related to the field.

Several high profile speakers are on the agenda, including Tun Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, ex-prime minister of Malaysia, who is known for promoting economic and technological development through Islam. "As we're starting Islamic banking in Oman, we want to bring experts from overseas to share their knowledge," said Khalid al Yahmadi, chairman of Amjaad Development. "The forum will provide awareness, training and education about Islamic finance and the structuring of Islamic products. We have support of the Fatwa Office at the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, which was important for credibility."

Bank Nizwa, Oman's first Islamic bank, will be supporting the event as strategic partner. "We have entered a partnership with Amjaad Development because we believe

that our commitment to Sharia-based financial services and their professionalism will make the forum a success, create awareness on Islamic finance in Oman, showcase our country's potential and lead to new trends in Islamic banking," said Ahmed Saif al Rawahi, chairman of the founding committee of Bank Nizwa, in a press release.



On the agenda will be topics such as best practices in Islamic finance, the positive effect Islamic finance can have on Oman's and the global economy, the Malaysian experience in Islamic finance, as well as opportunities for Omani companies and key players to network with foreign stakeholders. "We'd like to focus on all the elements and strengths of the Islamic economic system. In order to have a proper and fully compliant Islamic banking system, one should consider all relevant aspects of the Islamic economy," Khalid said.

A highlight of the event will be the announcement of the annual Global Islamic Finance Awards, which honours institutions and individuals for promoting and developing the Islamic finance market regionally and internationally.