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# The Intellect Bulletin



We all make mistakes in our lives and we all commit sins.

We are all human and sometimes tend to lose the path for a while.

There are many types of sins. No matter how big or small a sin is, once we decide to give it up and want to successfully repent to Allah c, it is of utmost importance for us to locate the main source of this sin and keep away from it to the best of our ability. The source may be a friend, a certain place that you go to sitting, at your computer alone or watching television alone. If the sin is related to the computer or the TV or other such appliances, we should not eliminate them completely from our lives. Instead we should try to find a way that helps us use these resources for

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

## NEWS: Magnitude of Ebola Virus Death Toll 'Vastly Underestimated.'



According to the World Health Organization, evidence suggests the death toll from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is vastly underestimated. The UN agency said it was prepared for the crisis to continue for months.

good rather than evil. It is always good to try and have people around you when using these resources so that you feel stronger and surround yourself with people who remind you to stay on the right path, for it is always easy to stray when alone and vulnerable.

If you find that the source of the sin is a friend, then you should cut ties with this friend. It will not always be an easy task. However if it must be done, then do it for the sake of Allah c and He shall reward you immensely for it Insha'Allah.

If the sin is more like missing prayers or not fasting in Ramadan, we may try to pinpoint the reason we commit the sin. It may be, that your mind is occupied with other things which are distracting you from the numbers of reported Ebola virus cases and deaths "vastly underestimate the magnitude of the outbreak," the UN agency said on its website on Thursday.

The death toll from the world's worst outbreak of Ebola, first identified in March, has reached more than 1,060 from 1,975 confirmed, probable and suspected cases, the agency said.

The vast majority were in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia while there have also been several deaths in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, health officials in Liberia have received doses of an experimental Ebola treatment drug from the United States called ZMapp. The drug has already been administered to two infected American aid workers. A Spanish priest who had also begun taking the experimental drug became the first European to succumb to the virus this year when he

the fundamental worship of Allah c. In this case we should try to eliminate these distractions from our lives or try to organize our time to sustain balanced lives which include our



worship in our daily lives.

Allah c knows that His being will make mistakes, hence has repeatedly said in the Holy Quran

'And you must seek forgiveness from your Lord, then, turn to Him in repentance, and He will die on Tuesday.

The highly contagious virus is a form of hemorrhagic fever that can cause severe fever, unstoppable bleeding and organ failure. There is no Ebola vaccine.

Past outbreaks of the virus have been linked to people hunting gorillas and chimps for food, or eating dead apes they find in the jungle. There are no gorillas in West Africa, so specialists think this outbreak is linked to fruit bats. In 2007 in Uganda, an Ebola outbreak was traced to "a couple of kids playing with fruit bats in a cave. They came home with two dead fruit bats and the mothers cooked them," said Dr. Estrella Lasry, a tropical medicine advisor to Doctors Without Borders.

Researchers still don't know the exact cause of this particular outbreak, but it might have to do with the local practice of eating bats for food, according to Jonathan Epstein, an epidemiologist

provide you with good things to enjoy for a given time, and bestow His extra favor on everyone who has extra good deeds (in his account). And if you turn away, then, I fear for

1. Hazrat Umar's h, when asked what is repentance, said "To sin and then never to return to it."

2. "To hate the sin, and the seek forgiveness for

The quoted Ayat clearly reflects that Allah c is ever merciful.

But the question that arises is what sincere repentance is?



at EcoHealth Alliance. "It's unclear whether it occurred due to butchering a bat, exposure to bat bodily fluids, or eating some food or fruit that was contaminated by saliva, urine, or feces from the bat, which may contain Ebola virus," he said. Pig farms in Africa also often attract bats, which also may have been a cause.

Saudi Arab has decided to ban Hajj visas to Ebola hit nations.

**VIEWS:** Islam is a pure religion and it prescribes purity in every form for its followers, may it be in what a Muslim eats, drinks, wears to a Muslim's thoughts and intentions. This is very clearly stated by Allah c in the Quran.

'Prohibited for you are: carrion, blood, the flesh of swine, and those upon which (a name) other than that of Allah has been invoked (at the time of slaughter), animal killed by strangulation, or killed by a blow, or by a fall, or by goring, or that which is eaten by a beast unless you have properly slaughtered it; and that which is slaughtered before the idols and that you determine shares through the arrows.' (Quran-5:3)

Also it only makes sense to completely restrict travel between affected nations and the non affected ones to curb this dangerous epidemic keeping in view the health benefits of the world population at large.

## News: Shortage of Imams in the US

As the number of US Muslims increases, the need of more imams has been growing more pressing with Muslim parents pushing their kids towards other careers that do not include religious studies.

Like other American clergy members, imams are expected to be "marriage counselor, youth director, scholar and fundraiser," Edgar Hopida, spokesman for the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), a network of Muslim leaders and groups, told The Wall Street Journal.

it every time it occurs to one," as Hasan al-Basri h said.

4. To have sincerity in one's repentance.

5. To be concerned about one's repentance not being accepted.

consistency in worship.

8. Like the seventh, but with the added condition that one deserts those who assisted one in sin.

As the number of Muslims in the United States grows, the number of mosques has also jumped 74 percent over the past decade.

The huge rise was not met with a similar one in the number of Muslims taking the post of imams, creating a severe shortage in the religious needs of growing worshippers.

Muslims leaders have attributed the shortage in the numbers of US Imams to parents' attitude toward their children studies that steer them away from religious leadership roles.

Instead, Muslim youth are encouraged to study medicine, engineering, law and business. Besides discouragement by family, depending on volunteers, funds by local Muslims as well the absence of a steady paycheck impedes many Muslims to be imams.

In addition to the growing need for imams, the need for American-born imams who can communicate better with new generations appeared as another problem.

Four out of five imams in the United States were born and educated outside the country, mostly in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and India.

Raised in a different culture from their parents, third-generation American Muslims feel alienated from mosques and from religious culture altogether.

"The older immigrant generation has to understand it doesn't matter where you're from, your kids are American," said Turk, a 43-year-old Phoenix native whose program aims to train American imams with courses on nonprofit management, psychology, civic engagement, gender relations and the media.

"And there's a very real concern that that younger generation will not find the mosque a place that resonates with them if imams aren't prepared to help them with their world," he added.

**VIEWS:** it is very important for a Muslim to be aware of the greatness of Islam along with the

or Repentance from the Merciful Lord are:

• One is aware that he has sinned, and feels sorry and ashamed at his sin.

• Makes a solemn covenant and promise with Allah c that he will not repeat his sin again.

• Turns to Allah c and seeks forgiveness, before he has met with his appointment of death.

• Is a believer and does righteous good deeds thereafter.

As Allah c says in the Holy Quran:

'Say (on My behalf), "O servants of Mine who have acted recklessly against their own selves, do not despair of Allah's mercy. Surely, Allah will forgive all sins. Surely, He of prophet hood was also an Imam, and from that platform, his companions would get educated in the matters of Islam, Khalifas would get appointed. The greatest stature a Muslim could hold than would be that of an Imam, from where he would eventually reach far and wide in the Islamic sultanate.

Masha'Allah the numbers of Muslims is spreading in the United States which is a very good news and hence calls for an immediate action to ensure that awareness is built amongst the Muslims of the need to build on the practice of our beloved Prophet g and to provide means for the Muslims to get right answers to their questions that commonly arise

Studying to become an Imam, and becoming an Imam, in Islam is a matter of very big honour. An honour that or beloved Prophet g held it as a sign of great respect.

Our Prophet g along with discharging duties



is the One who is the Most-Forgiving, the Very-Merciful. Turn passionately towards your

Lord, and submit to Him before the punishment comes to you, after which you will not be helped.' (Quran-39:53-54)

At another place Allah c says:

'And those who, when they happen to commit a shameful act or wrong themselves, remember Allah, then, seek forgiveness for their sins -and who is there to forgive sins except Allah?-and do not persist in what they have done, knowingly. Their reward is forgiveness from their Lord and gardens beneath which rivers flow where they shall live forever. And excellent is the reward of those who work.' (Quran-3:135-136)

relating to Islam.

The need of the time is to establish institutes that provide the Muslim youth with both worldly and Islamic education and caters to all social classes so that the dedication to work for the cause of Islam is built invoked in them.

One of the main reasons why young Muslims are more attracted to the worldly education is the lack of proper systems, qualifications and experiences in place for sporting Islamic education.

Muslims need to give more preference to their never ending life of the Hereafter over their worldly life.

Jamia Baitussalam is an example of an institute that focuses on making sure that its student is well versed in the knowledge of the world along with the knowledge of Islam, and Insha'Allah Jamia, and other such institutes in Pakistan, are at least working towards fulfilling this gap here.

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It is the Hajj season again and as many pilgrims across the world prepare to undertake this spiritual journey, below given are some handy tips compiled with input from Hajjis on how to have a productive Hajj.

**Before You Travel:**

1. Photocopy of all your official documents. Make extra copies of passports and photos.
2. Keep both your national currency as well as Saudi Riyals in your wallet.
3. Have your agent check in for all the bookings, hotels, foods, agreements beforehand.
4. Ensure to pay all your dues. Also, pre-pay your monthly bills so you don't fall behind simply because you'll be out of the country.

**Educate Yourself & Remain With the Learned:**

5. Have the right mentality, otherwise you would find it very difficult to cope. Take one thing at a time, have the intention to please your Lord in the best way possible, and go with an open mind.
6. Gain complete and authentic knowledge about each and every aspect of Hajj.
7. Re-learn the basics of Islam: Those going for Hajj should make sure that they are performing Wudhu and Salah and perfectly.
8. Familiarize yourself with the Hajj plan; don't depend on the Imam to guide you on every little detail to recite or prayer to pray.
9. Study the Seerah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and Prophet Ibrahim (AS) before you go.
10. Be careful not to be



involved with shirk or incorrect practices.

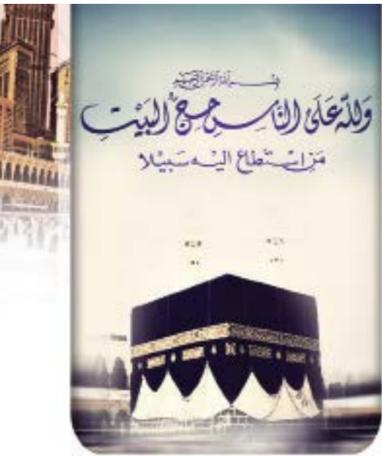
11. Remain with 'ulema' (scholars) who can explain the rituals correctly. Find a group that organizes daily motivational reminders & guidelines on how to practically perform the various rituals.

12. In spite of the previous tip, know your dos and don'ts: The crowds are massive and time is tight, so even though you are with a group, you sometimes need to do things on your own or take your own initiative. The groups try their best to streamline things for the people but certain things are beyond their control. At such times, one's own study and knowledge comes in handy and instead of going with the group; one can do a few things independently.

13. Learn common Arabic vocabulary and phrases needed during Hajj so that it eases communication.

**What to Wear:**

14. Wear comfortable, durable sandals or shoes.
15. Keep in mind that you will put your slippers in a bag when you go to Masjid al-Haram. The floor of the Haram is granite and may be hard on sensitive feet. Take a pair of booties or padded socks or anything that has some padding to ease the hardness of the floor and pain on the feet.
16. Keep a spare Ihram while in Mina in case it gets dirty.
17. Place a damp hand



**Tips for a Productive Hajj (PART-1)**

towel under your cap; it will keep you fresh and energized. InshaAllah!

**What to Carry:**

18. Stay light. Keep your baggage to the essentials.
19. Take empty plastic bottles with you when going to Masjid al-Haram so you can fill up Zamzam to take back to the hotel.
20. Keep a light backpack for essential belongings you need to carry around: cash for the day, passport, small dua book, small Quran, packet of tissue paper, etc.
21. Keep a lightweight prayer mat with you. It can be placed on your head to protect you from the heat and also shared with others whenever you have to pray in an area without rugs. (Note: For those with weak joints or bones, carry a padded prayer mat.)
22. Carry a lightweight umbrella to shelter from the sun.
23. Take sunglasses.
24. Take petroleum jelly to stop your legs from rubbing as there will be a lot of walking.
25. Have some basic medicines on hand.
26. Women, please bring a pair of scissors so that it is easy to cut your hair at the end of Hajj.
27. Get yourself a mini Quran, a pocket-size Hajj guide, and a mini supplications book. Have your mp3 well sorted with Quran/duas/lectures; the journeys are long!
28. Keep phones which have longer battery life; you may not find place to charge your smart phone in Arafah and Muzdalifah.
29. There are mainly only squat/floor toilets at the Hajj sites. Rather than causing yourself undue hardship, wasting time, and risk ending up with unclean clothing for prayer, it is best for women to

**Washroom-Related Gear:**

wear light cotton dresses (or jelabiyyas are perfect) underneath their outer garments. These can be easily lifted for bathroom visits and will be far more comfortable.

30. Keep elastic bands for holding your pants and sleeves up when making Wudhu to prevent them from getting wet.

31. Keep an emergency kit of plastic bags, small bottle (preferably squeeze, like a plastic ketchup bottle) of water for washing oneself and Wudhu, toilet paper, and even a small bucket or container if needed. This can be used for emergency bathroom needs and making Wudhu rather than standing for hours.

32. Take (perfume-free) liquid soap rather than a bar which becomes difficult to re-package once wet.

**Tips for Spiritual Productivity**

**Duas:**

33. Learn relevant duas to be recited when doing Hajj.
34. Do not just read from books but do dua from heart.
35. Have a dua diary: keep a notebook or a diary with all the names of the people and their duas which they would like you to make for them. It is also a great idea to pen down one's own duas in the notebook.

**Focus:**

36. Stay unplugged! Only

keep a cell for emergency use, but stay AS FAR AWAY from your life back home as you can; no email, no phone. Immerse yourself in the experience so that you can focus solely on your purpose.

37. Do not get too distracted with all the shopping there as it is easy to do so and concentrate on the real reason you are there.

38. Don't worry about your money, children, spouse, parents, brothers & sisters because you will be away. Just forget everything and do your Hajj faithfully and sincerely and Allah (SWT) surely will keep them all safe.

39. Simply submit yourself to Allah (SWT) as the journey begins. That is the only way the physical challenges become unimportant and one can accept every challenge as food for the soul. Otherwise the entire journey is likely to be spent in fretting over meaningless daily hassles that can spoil such a great opportunity!

40. Travel light with an open mind and heart & stay focused on your destination.

41. Refrain from all and every kind of 'bad talk' (anger, hurtful words, slander, lies, etc.) from the moment that you have the intent to go on Hajj, from the days leading up to it till the day you leave, and every single day thereafter during Hajj.

42. Because of the long periods of time without bathroom access and on buses, eat less. Nothing is more distracting to 'ibaadah' and prayer than urgency to go to the bathroom.

(to be continued...)

Note: Sourced from productivemuslim.com

**Bait-us-Salam Updates**

**Jamia Bait-us-Salam: Grand Award Ceremony**

A grand event was held at the Jamia Bait-us-Salam on the 14th of August, 2014



to commemorate the start of the new session and to honor the students with outstanding performance in the session which had just ended.

Awards were handed out in the form of cash prizes, certificates and shield. Books were also given as gifts.

The first position holder at the Wifaq Examination was given Rs. 50,000 cash prize along with other gifts.

The ceremony was attended by old and new students along with their parents.

Students also gave speeches in English and Urdu and Arabic and Urdu poems were also recited. Overall was a very festive occasion enjoyed by all present.

The event ended with a speech from Hazrat Maulana Abdul Sattar (DBA) and refreshments were served to the parents, students and their teachers.

**The Intellect School- Planning Ahead**

With each passing year, The Intellect School's campus is undergoing a systematic, substantial expansion in accordance with modern academic needs and the increasing number of students. This year too, by the grace of Allah c, the school's senior section, which aims to follow the Cambridge system of education of O and A levels in future, is being expanded and shifted



into a new building in the campus. Apart from larger classrooms, this building comprises a spacious and airy prayer room; various laboratories with modern equipment along with a cafeteria which will Insha'Allah serve healthy, hygienic food items.

**Rozah-tus-Salam: Beginning of the First Session**

An orientation was held for the parents of the newly registered students at the Rozah-tus-Salam in August, 2014 and Allhamdulillah the first batch of students have commenced with their studies there.



**The Layers of the Atmosphere**

One fact about the universe revealed in the verses of the Quran is that the sky is made up of seven layers.

'It is He who created for you all that the earth contains; then He turned to the heavens and made them seven skies - and He is the knower of all things.' (Quran 2:29)

'So He accomplished them as seven skies in two days, and settled in every sky its (due) thing. And We have decorated the closest sky with lamps, and protected it properly. All this is the determination of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing.' (Quran 41:12)

**Facts, Events & Beliefs**  
**Miracles of the Holy Quran**

The word "heavens", which appears in many verses in the Holy Quran, is used to refer to the sky above the Earth, as well as the entire universe. Given this meaning of the word, it is seen that the Earth's sky, or the atmosphere, is made up of seven layers. Indeed, today it is known that the world's atmosphere consists of different layers that lie on top of each other. Furthermore, it consists, just as is described in the

1. Troposphere
2. Stratosphere
3. Ozonosphere
4. Mesosphere
5. Thermosphere

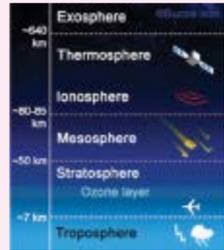
6. Ionosphere
7. Exosphere

Another important miracle on this subject is mentioned in the statement '(He) revealed, in every heaven, its own mandate,' in verse 12 of Surah Fussilet. In other words, in the verse, Allah c states that He assigned each heaven its own duty. Truly, as seen in previous chapters, each one of these layers has vital duties for the benefit of human kind and all other living things on the Earth. Each layer has a particular function, ranging from forming rain to preventing harmful rays, from reflecting radio waves, to averting the harmful effects of meteors.

Rain, snow and wind only take place in the troposphere.

It is a great miracle that these facts, which could not possibly be discovered without the technology of the 20th century, were explicitly stated

(Source: Miracles of the Quran By Harun Yahya)



**Various Names of the Day of Judgement**

**DOWN**

- 1 The Day of Decision (Yaumul-\_\_\_\_\_)
- 2 The Mighty, Great Day (Yaumul-\_\_\_\_\_)
- 3 The Day of Testimony (Yaumul-\_\_\_\_\_)
- 4 The Last Day (Yaumul-\_\_\_\_\_)
- 5 The Day of Resurrection (Yaumul-\_\_\_\_\_)

**ACROSS**

- 1 The Day of Disaster, Barren Day (Yaumul-\_\_\_\_\_)
- 2 The Day of Distress (Yaumul-\_\_\_\_\_)
- 3 The Known Day (Yaumul-\_\_\_\_\_)
- 4 The Day of Account (Yaumul-\_\_\_\_\_)

Answers Aug'14 Crossword  
Across: 5-The Greatest; 6-The Opener; 7-The Exalter  
Down: 1-The Forgiving; 2-The Hearer; 3-The Sustainer; 4-The Compeller

Answers will be published in the October issue of TIB

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