

Around the World

Ghana Muslims hail president's stand on hijab

Ghanaian Muslims have welcomed a recent presidential directive emphasizing the citizen's right to freedom of faith as spelled out in the national constitution. "It's like our prayers have finally been heard," Kausar Mohammed, a nursing student, told The Anadolu Agency. "It's good because it will help us practice our faith," he said. In his annual state-of-the-nation address on Thursday, President John Mahama reiterated his commitment to Article 21 of the constitution, which guarantees citizens the freedom of religion and the freedom to express their religious beliefs. "It is wrong under our constitution for Muslim students to be compelled to attend church services, or for Christian students to be compelled to attend Muslim congregational prayers," he explained. "It is also wrong to prevent Muslim women from wearing the hijab or Catholic nuns from wearing their habits to work or school," Mahama added. "Heads of institution must note this for strict compliance," he warned. "Appropriate sanctions will be taken against any head of institution who acts contrary to constitutional provisions." Prior to the president's directive, many female Muslim high-school students-and female Muslims working in the public sector-had been forced to take off their veils. The issue was more pronounced at missionary schools and nurse-training colleges.

Gambia:

40,000 Copies of Holy Quran Distributed to Various Beneficiaries

Jamaatu Salam, a charitable and non-profit organization based in The Gambia over the weekend handed over 40, 000 copies of the Holy Quran to various beneficiaries across the country and beyond.

One thousand copies were presented to the Gambia leader, as a result of the love that he has for the people by organizing quranic competition in memorization of the Holy Quran.

The presentation was held at Kafuta village in the Kombo East District of the West Coast Region, donated by a Saudi philanthropist through the Jamaatu Salam organization based in The Gambia.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Alhaji Sambou Lamin Touray, president of the Jamaatu Salaam, explained that this was a charitable and non-profit making organization based in The Gambia, with support from individuals and groups of people in Dubai, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

He said these individuals and groups of people give support to the less privileged in the Muslim Ummah across the globe, in particular The Gambia, Cassamance region of Senegal and Guinea Bissau in West Africa.

Part of their activities include refurbishing and building new mosques, digging wells for communities, provision of scholarships, paying dowry for the less privileged, and providing bulls for Muslim feasts, among others.

Anti-Muslim group leader arrested outside a mosque in 'racist' brawl

Police were called to the scene and had to break up the street fight between the group of 10 at Haldon Street in Lakemba, the ABC reported. The controversial leader of the Australian Defence League has been arrested after he was involved in a three-man brawl outside a mosque in Sydney's south-west. Ralph Cerminara and a fellow member of the

anti-Islamic group were arrested on Monday night after derogatory remarks were allegedly made to people attending a nearby mosque.

The third man involved in the fight was not part of league. Witnesses told the national broadcaster the fight broke out after anti-Islamic taunts were made. Another man, 43, was charged with affray and resisting or hindering police in the execution of their duty and is due to appear in Burwood Local Court on Tuesday.

A police officer was taken to hospital after his left shoulder was fractured during the incident. The trio were taken to Canterbury Hospital and treated for injuries before they were charged at Campsie Police Station, according to the Sydney Morning Herald.