

# Sighting of new moon

## Visual sighting or astronomical method

By A.W.Mir

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Our Prophet (PBUH) said; "Commence fasting month (Ramadan) on seeing of the new moon of Ramadan and end the month of Ramadan with the new moon of Shawwal. And if the sky is overcast, then act on estimation i.e. count Sha'ban as 30 days. Here came the prophetic tradition of visual sighting of the new moon.

"The Prophet [PBUH], indeed, instructed the companions to establish the first day of Ra-

madan by sighting the moon, but then he stated that the reason for his directive was the inability of early Muslim community to provide accurate calculation. The community was then illiterate and did not master reading, writing or calculation. They had no experienced astronomers who have access to the knowledge, tools and facilities to determine with accuracy the beginning of the lunar month. Consequently, moon sighting was the only tool available for the

early Muslim community."

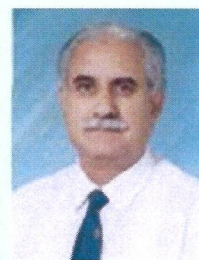
Now let us take the case of the timing of daily prayers. Movement of the Sun was the only source available in early days of Islam, with the development of watch; time for prayers were set using this new technology. No one would go out and look at the Sun to announce prayer time. There is nothing un-Islamic to use watch for daily prayers.

Nowhere in Islam is it mandatory that only a Maulvi / Mufti are authorized to sight the new Moon for Islamic Calendar. If these individuals have authorization in Islamic teachings let all of us know about it.

In the early days of Islam there were no tall buildings and high resolution / powerful telescopes, Moon sighting was carried out from ground level or possibly from some high spot nearby.

Science of Astronomy has full knowledge of movement of celestial bodies (in this case Moon) visible to naked eye and Astronomical calculations can be carried out to establish the time and angle above the horizon (of the new Moon).

Dir.HumaidMajol Al Nuaimi, Chairman of the Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Science and Chancellor of University of Sharjah explained;the rotation of the moon around the Earth drives the Lunar Calendar, which is also



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The Islamic or Hijri Calendar. The time between two full moons is 29.5 days. When the moon comes exactly between the Sun and the Earth, it is called the "Conjunction" and it is said that a new moon is "born". At this conjunction point, all of the Sun's radiation is reflected back by the moon and none reaches the Earth. Therefore, the moon is completely black to us earthlings and is thus invisible. The time passed after the moment of conjunction is called the age of the moon.


Our Maulvis / Muftis should know that the Prophet (PBUH), however, taught us that we are the Ummah of knowledge and we are to achieve progress, seek knowledge and be up to date with the reality of the time we live in. Muslims thus established astronomical observations, and they invented the modern systems that help in

sighting the new moon. They started to implement the astronomical calculations in conjunction with the visual moon sighting.

ing where and when to look for the moon, how high it will be in the sky, and what are the chances of its visibility. It is now possible to

of performing religious functions and duties because we are not following his ways of mosques, loud speakers, for travel we use motorized vehicles and

It is high time that we compare that information with the modern means of travel, development lunar calendar does it imply that we dare




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Dr. Nuaimi, further calculate the exact time with the calculation; "as far as sighting window of the moon's data and we can the moon goes, we visibility after sunset establish whether the could acquire a great and even generate person is telling the deal of help from simulated images of truth. We could use the moon beforehand." All of us avail many calculations and modern We need to question modern tools and tech- simulations for know- the individual who niques in the process

## KP to construct 20,000 housing units on under NPHS

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on has approved three housing schemes that will be constructed under Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme. The CM directed that that initial feasibility report should be submitted within 20 days so that Memorandum of Understanding could be signed with Pakistan's Housing Authority and the said schemes be initiated on time.

According to the plan 20,000 housing units will be constructed on a total of 8500 Kanals land.

He also directed to submit final proposal regarding housing schemes in Swat and Hangu districts in next 10 days under which 9,000 units would be constructed in Hangu and 3,000 in Swat.

## State of the Art Oil Testing lab recognized by Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA)



Target Scientific Laboratory (Pvt.) Ltd

Target Scientific Laboratory (Pvt) Ltd. is engaged in offering accurate and precise testing services. We have achieved a single and prime position in the field of testing and analysis through its constant effort and commitment of quality. Our professionals are fully dedicated to achieve the organizational goal. We follow the international standard during the testing and analysis such as ASTM, ISO, IEC, ICH, USP, BP, EP, JP, etc. We have been providing our testing services to the reputable institutions and organizations of Pakistan.

### Our Services

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- Engine oil analysis
- Transformer oil analysis
- Turbine oil analysis
- Hydraulic oil analysis
- Compressor oil analysis
- Lubricating grease analysis

#### Fuel Oil Analysis

- Furnace oil
- Gasoline / Petrol
- Jet fuel
- Diesel etc.

#### Minerals & metals including essential and trace elements

- Phos (Positive material identification)

#### Chemicals

- Xylene
- Toluene
- Iso
- Methanol and all volatile solvent

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- Accredited ISO/IEC 17025:2005 from PNAC (Pakistan National Accreditation Council).
- We participate in proficiency testing with international laboratories in order to maintain precision of results.
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- Managed by a team of experienced professionals who support in the field of testing equipments and Instruments.
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