

# Islamia

If you neglect *Solat*, you are a nobody. Find out why. (page 4)

Children in quake-hit Padang continue studying amidst the rubbles. (page 7)



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BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

**I**nnalillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. Verily we come from Allah and to Him shall we all return. Last night, a neighbour died in his sleep. His daughter found his cold body after *Solat Subuh*. I heard all the screaming and weeping from my bedroom upstairs.

I tried to be as helpful as I could in that neighbour's house then, rolling out carpets for people to sit down on when they came for *takziah*. I watched some of his children call relatives and other family members with the sad news. An hour before noon, the deceased was already in shroud and people lined up to offer the *Solat Janazah*, and I became very, very sad.

The house was big and spacious, and the three short lines of people performing the prayer looked pitifully empty. I then realised, and maybe other people also realised, that there simply were too few people who came to offer the prayer for the dead.

I have read that when the Muslims pray *Janazah* for their deceased brother, they are granted intercession for him. The more the number of Muslims who join in the prayer, the more beneficial it is for the deceased.

Allah takes their testimony and supplication regarding the deceased's apparent actions as a sufficient reason for forgiveness. Since those Muslims who associated with him did not find any major problem to prevent them from supplicating for him, Allah the Most Generous accepts that and agrees to forgive many of his hidden sins that they did not know of.

Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, practised forming three lines of people for *Solat Janazah*. He said, "Whenever a Muslim dies, and three lines of Muslims pray *Janazah* for him, he is granted forgiveness." (Ahmad, Abu Dawud, and others)

I do not have that much, but I think I would start with doing more charity... I really must race death. I don't know if I would be able to do it, I don't even know if I would be good enough as a person to entice enough people – in the event of my death – to come and form at least three solid lines for my *Solat Janazah* and pray for Allah's forgiveness for me.

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A child near Pariaman, West Sumatra on Oct 8, in the aftermath of an earthquake. Thousands of people died in the 7.6-magnitude earthquake that shook Sumatra island around the city of Padang on Sept 30. Picture: AFP

## Aiming for 'Three Lines'