

Terminating the Fast Beforehand based on Information from the Calendar

Q: Saum-10: Because the sunset was not visible during the first two days of Ramadhaan due to cloudy weather, we relied on the calendar for the times of Iftaar. When we were able to see the sunset on the third day, we realised that there was a difference between this day and the first two days. While sunset on the first two days was at 6:50 pm, the sun set on the third day at 6:54 pm. We now doubt whether the first two fast were terminated prematurely and whether they will have to be repeated.

Answer: It is wrong to rely completely on the calendar and to follow it to the minute. Special care should be taken during cloudy conditions and Iftaar should be delayed by four to five minutes. It is only when one is certain that the sun has set that Iftaar should be observed. In the stated case it would be necessary to repeat the fasts if you are reasonably sure that Iftaar was made before its time. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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