



7 Myanmar's junta court jails Suu Kyi for 5 years



12 In Egypt, the president is a Ramadan TV hero



16 City let Madrid off the hook in 7-goal classic



Ramadan Timings	
Fajr	03:45
Shurooq	05:10
Dhuhr	11:46
Asr	15:21
Maghrib	18:21
Isha	19:44

VOLVO

Kuwait lifts all corona-related measures; face masks 'optional'

No need for vaccination, PCR to enter Kuwait



KUWAIT: Photo shows Kuwait security operatives and passengers at Kuwait Airport. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The Council of Ministers yesterday effectively lifted all measures that were imposed to contain the coronavirus disease - making wearing face masks anywhere optional and removing vaccination certificates and PCR tests as conditions to enter Kuwait, the government spokesman said. Tareq Al-Mazrem said in a statement that the Cabinet decided during an extraordinary meeting to allow all individuals to enter all closed public places without the need for vaccination or a PCR test.

The Cabinet decided to abolish all decisions and regulations that had been imposed since the outbreak of the COVID-19 disease. Wearing of masks is compulsory only for people who show symptoms of the disease, Mazrem said. People arriving from outside Kuwait are not required to show a PCR test or a vaccination certificate as unvaccinated people can freely enter the country, the Cabinet said.

Unvaccinated people are no longer required to carry out a PCR test as a condition to enter

Continued on Page 6

Gulf Cable and Electrical Industries' assets increase to KD 316.35 million

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board of Gulf Cable and Electrical Industries Co Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi said the company adopted a promising strategy to carry out controlled quality takeover operations, which will have positive effects on the company's performance and revenues, in addition to shareholders' equity.

Al-Kharafi, who spoke on the sidelines of the company's general assembly that was held recently, said Gulf Cable is currently interested in expanding its operational investment to go along with approved strategic plans, which reflects its ability and solvency as a main umbrella that has become like a holding company. (See Page 8)



KUWAIT: Chairman of the Board of Gulf Cable and Electrical Industries Co Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi

Ramadan Kareem

Levels of fasting

By Hassan Twaha Bwambale

Ramadan is not just about abstaining from food, drink, conjugal intimacy, and other acts that nullify the Fast from dawn to sunset. Real fasting should bring about a real inner change in the Muslim individual and in a Muslim community at large. The Islamic Fast is not about a mere starvation or self-denial; rather it is an act of worship and obedience to Almighty Allah, thanksgiving, forgiveness, spiritual training, self-examination, etc. If you perform an act of worship during the month of Ramadan, your reward is doubled or even tripled. Fasting in Ramadan is very special for the reason that God Almighty Himself determines the amount of rewards you will receive.

What are levels of fasting?

(A) The fast of the masses, which entails abandoning food, drink and sensual pleasure for some hours. Anyone who falls under this category will get abundant rewards from Allah (the Almighty and Majestic). Almighty Allah says in Al-Hadeeth Al-Qudsi, describing the condition of a fasting person, translated as: "... he abandons his food, drinks and conjugal rights because of Me. Therefore, fasting is for Me and I am the One to determine the nature and amount of rewards for him." (Al-Bukhari # 1904)

The majority of the Muslims fall under this category. Therefore, I urge those who are fasting this year to try their level best to upgrade their fast and fall under the highest of all the three categories of fasting. Our long-sought goal should be to please Allah (the Exalted in Might) and to keep Him in our minds with the realization that He watches over us all the time.

(B) The fast of special people, which entails not only abstaining from food, drink and conjugal rights from dawn to dusk, but also keeping one's eyes, tongue, hands, ears, and indeed his whole body away from committing sins. Abu Huraira narrated that Prophet (PBUH) said, translated as: "Whoever doesn't abandon false speech or acting upon it, there is no need for him to abstain from food and drinks" (Al-Bukhari # 1,903)

We infer from this prophetic narration that real fasting is to abstain from sins as much as possible. On this issue, Jaber bin Abdullah (ra) said, translated as: "When fasting, your ears, eyes, and mouth should shun lying as well as committing other sins. Moreover, there should be

Continued on Page 6

EU to lift Schengen visa requirements for Kuwaitis

BRUSSELS: The European Commission Wednesday proposed to lift visa requirements for nationals of Kuwait and Qatar. Under this proposal, once agreed, Kuwait and Qatar nationals holding biometric passports would no longer need a visa when travelling to the EU for short stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period for business, tourism or family purpose, it said in a press release.

This proposal comes after the commission assessed a number of criteria including irregular migration,

public policy and security, economic benefits, and the union's relations with the two countries. It will contribute to strengthening relations with Gulf countries. EU High Representative Josep Borrell said: "Our proposal to lift visa requirements for Qatari and Kuwaiti nationals is a first step to make it easier for people from the entire region to travel to the European Union."

"The final objective is to ensure regional coherence and ultimately

Continued on Page 6

UAE to roll out 'responsible' AI

DUBAI: The world's first minister for artificial intelligence (AI) says the United Arab Emirates isn't only looking for economic benefits as it seeks to become a leading nation in the sector. The UAE's minister of state for AI, Omar bin Sultan Al-Olama, said "quality of life" considerations were key, and also stressed the importance of a "responsible" rollout-with impacts potentially reverberating for decades.

"We are looking at AI as a tool," he told AFP in an interview in Dubai. "It's

a tool that we need to use to unleash the quality of life aspect." The UAE also calls AI "machine intelligence", defining it as a branch of technology enabling systems to "think, learn, and make decisions like humans", which can support everything from virology to transport. "Yes, economic gain is something that every country wants, and we want it too," Olama added. "But... we want to ensure the development and deployment and the use of AI is responsible."

Olama was just 27 when he was handed the cabinet-level position in 2017, tasked with launching the oil-rich Arab nation's strategy in a field which touches everything from speech

Continued on Page 6

Climate change, overuse kill off Iraq Sawa Lake

SAWA LAKE: A "No Fishing" sign on the edge of Iraq's western desert is one of the few clues that this was once Sawa Lake, a biodiverse wetland and recreational landmark. Human activity and climate change have combined to turn the site into a barren wasteland with piles of salt.

Abandoned hotels and tourist facilities here hark back to the 1990s when the salt lake, circled by sandy banks, was in its heyday and popular

with newly-weds and families who came to swim and picnic.

But today, the lake near the city of Samawa, south of the capital Baghdad, is completely dry. Bottles litter its former banks and plastic bags dangle from sun-scorched shrubs, while two pontoons have been reduced to rust. "This year, for the first time, the lake has disappeared," environmental activist Husam Subhi said. "In previous years, the water area had decreased during the dry seasons."

Today, on the sandy ground sprinkled with salt, only a pond remains where tiny fish swim, in a source that connects the lake to an underground water table. The five-square-kilometer lake has been drying up since

Continued on Page 6



EU flags fly near the EU headquarters in Brussels. The European Commission Wednesday proposed to lift visa requirements for nationals of Kuwait and Qatar.



DUBAI: Photo shows newly deployed fast-track gates that use face and iris-recognition technologies at Dubai International Airport. — AFP



SAMAWAH: An aerial view shows a pond remaining at the dried-up Sawa Lake in Iraq's southern province of Al-Muthanna. — AFP