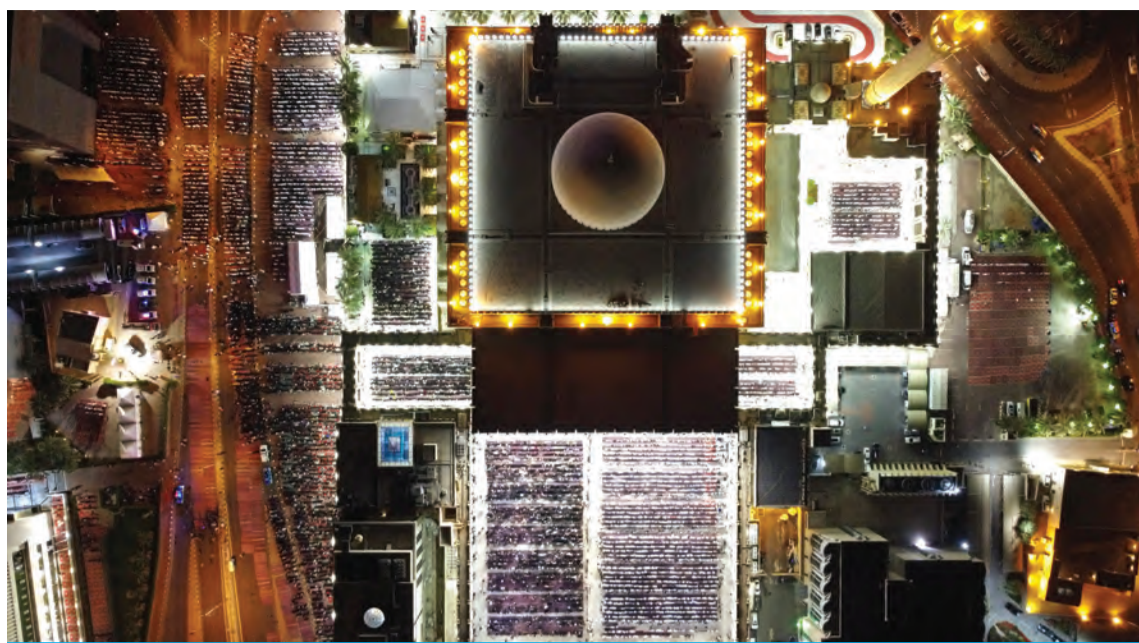


Local



KUWAIT: Worshippers perform qiyam ul-layl prayers at the Grand Mosque on April 18, 2023 on the 27th night of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

Faithful throng Grand Mosque

Thousands of worshippers pray qiyam ul-layl on 27th night of Ramadan

By Shakir Reshamwala

KUWAIT: Tens of thousands of worshippers spent the night of the 27th of Ramadan in prayer and supplication at the Grand Mosque early Tuesday. The attendees savored the atmosphere at the mosque, which reopened for nightly prayers after three years due to the COVID pandemic and maintenance works. Eight rakats of tahajjud were performed, followed by three rakats of witr. The first four rakats were led by Sheikh Fahad Al-Kandari, and the remaining by Sheikh Meshari Al-Afasy. No sermon was scheduled after four rakats as on other nights.

Kuwait authorities have secured 27 mobile medical clinics with the required equipment and staff to operate during nightly prayers. Health Minister Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi said during a tour of the Grand Mosque and Bilal bin Rabah Mosque on Sunday to inspect medical preparations. Awadhi urged worshippers who suffer from chronic diseases to take their medication regularly as prescribed by doctors.

The Grand Mosque in Kuwait is the hub of worship in Kuwait in Ramadan, and thousands pack its cavernous interiors throughout Ramadan. Many believe 'Laylatul Qadr' (Night of Power or Decree) falls on night of the 27th of Ramadan, but this is not a confirmed fact as Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) instructed Muslims to hunt for this night on the odd-numbered nights of the last 10 days of Ramadan. Qiyam ul-layl or special nightly prayers are therefore held during these nights at the Grand Mosque and many other mosques across Kuwait.

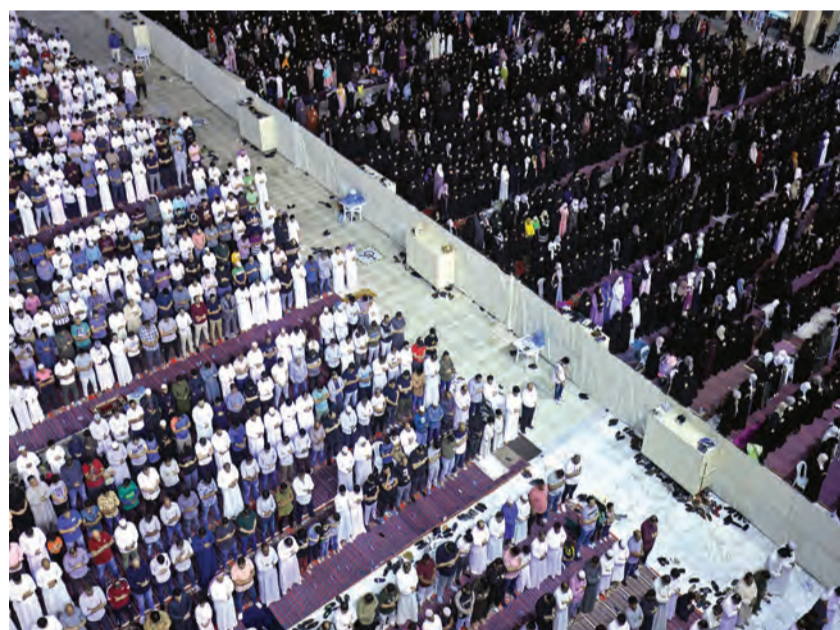
Laylatul Qadr holds great significance for Muslims, and the last ten



nights of Ramadan are spent in prayer and meditation. Ubaadah bin Saamit (RA) reports that he asked the Prophet (PBUH) about Laylatul Qadr. He replied: "It is in Ramadan, during the last ten days, on the unevenly numbered nights, either the 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th or the last night of Ramadan. Whoever stands in ibadah (worship) on this night, with sincere faith and with genuine hopes of gaining reward, his previous sins will be forgiven.

Among the signs of this night is that it is a serene, quiet, shining night, neither hot, nor cold but temperate as if a moon is shining clear, and no meteors are shot at the devils on that night; it lasts until the break of the dawn. Another sign is that at morn, the sun rises without any radiant beams of light, appearing rather like the moon in its fullness. On that day, Allah prohibits the devils from rising up with the sun."

Laylatul Qadr could thus fall on any night, but the night of the 27th is believed by most to be the one, and millions of Muslims around the globe spend this night in prayer. The Holy Quran says that Laylatul Qadr is better than a thousand months, and



Allah's blessings and angels descend on earth on this night. Laylatul Qadr is also the night that Allah first sent down the first verses of the Holy Quran via Archangel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In my view

Saudi, Iran and Chinese honey

By Yousuf Awadh Al-Azmi

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Firmness in support of fundamentals, with flexibility in tactics and methods, is the key to any hope of progress in negotiation." — Dwight D Eisenhower.

Recently, a Saudi/Iranian agreement was announced in Beijing, as Chinese efforts succeeded, which surprised many. In fact, the Chinese efforts are complementary to previous Omani diplomatic efforts. The Chinese mediation crowned the Omani efforts and resulted in an agreement between the two regional powers. In such agreements, considering their special circumstances, the terms are rarely made public. If announced, they will be in broad headlines.

However, as time goes by and with the tracking of events, it will be easy to decipher some of the terms of the agreement. Some results came quickly and are summarized as follows. (1) Opening of airspace between the two countries. (2) Re-opening diplomatic missions. (3) An Omani-Saudi panel visiting Sanaa to meet important officials. (4) The Syrian foreign minister's visit to Riyadh.

This is what was monitored, and of course it was not announced that these are among the terms of the agreement, but we remember the famous Arab proverb: "The sun cannot be covered by a sieve." There is no doubt that what happened has its justifications and its understandable rationale. The two powers were preoccupied with huge files, their interests clashed, with quarrels on every side, but in the end, the writing must stop at the last point.

If we read the situation of the two states quickly, we will find that Saudi Arabia has a strong economy and is working on achieving ambitious plans with tangible societal change. However, it is preoccupied with the war in the south of the country with the new Yemeni regime, which imposed its control over the capital Sanaa with the support of regional powers and Iran becoming the main controller of Yemen's capabilities. Saudi Arabia was, even at the height of the war, seeking a political solution.

And now, after the agreement between Riyadh and Tehran, it seems political solutions are possible. As for Iran, it is clear that the arrangements for Syria's return to its Arab surroundings and the consequent changes are expected at all levels. The rare visit of the Syrian foreign minister to Riyadh was announced, coinciding with calls for holding a conference of foreign ministers of a number of influential Arab countries regarding approving Syria to reactivate its membership in the Arab League.

It seems that these steps receive an unannounced, albeit clear approval for followers of the course of events, with the most important fact being that Syrian-Arab relations have returned in the form of opening of air links between them and some countries. The hospitality President Bashar Al-Assad received in Muscat and then in Abu Dhabi has its implications that cannot be hidden from anyone.

It is currently expected, "in sympathy" with what is happening on the ground, that the steps for Syria's return have matured, and there is nothing left but to raise the curtain. As for the situation with Sanaa, the situation can no longer bear the continuation of the escalation in a war with no winner, so it seems that the voice of reason has begun to hear the chants of its victory.

The main question we should ask ourselves: Will the honeymoon between the two large countries in the region last? Will the interests of the major powers who did not sign the agreement be affected by it? Let's not forget that China, the leader of the agreement, is considered one of the largest countries in the world with regards to production and export of honey of high quality. Will Chinese honey suffice for the honeymoon and go beyond what we expect? It is certain that a fair peace based on credibility and commitment has no loser, so will credibility and commitment stand? I hope so.

News in Brief

Campaign to aid debtors amasses KD 8.72 million

KUWAIT: The national campaign to gather financial support and aid for debtors had amassed KD 8.72 million (around \$28.46 million) in its second day, an official said on Tuesday. Spokesman of the application for electronic services of various government agencies (Sahel) Yusef Kathem told KUNA that the Ministry of Information had played a huge role in supporting the recent campaign via its various outlets. He also commended the role played by the Ministry of Social Affairs, which came in line with directives of the Cabinet, noting that the ministry had enabled direct donations via the Sahel application through this particular campaign. He lauded the public and official entities support of the campaign to ease the financial burdens of debtors. — KUNA

Interior Ministry releases detained police officers

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior announced on Tuesday the release of all members of the police force who have been detained for disciplinary measures. The Ministry's undersecretary general Anwar Al-Barjas issued a decision to release the detainees based on the instructions and directives of the first deputy prime minister, interior minister and acting Defense Minister Sheikh Talal Khalid Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr, the interior ministry said in a press statement. — KUNA

Kuwait denies report about FM's visit to Syria

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry on Tuesday denied reports about a planned official visit by Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Syria. The ministry, in a statement, described as false reports published by local newspapers and news agencies that the foreign minister would pay the visit to Damascus next Thursday. It urged the media to ensure accuracy in news coverage, shun rumors and false information, seek news from official and reliable sources. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Bilal bin Rabah Mosque is one of the most important holy places in the country. —KUNA

Worshippers observe qiyam at Bilal Mosque

KUWAIT: In a spiritual atmosphere that has filled the alleys of the Bilal bin Rabah Mosque, worshippers continue observing the last ten days of the holy month of Ramadan accompanied by a number

of officials and volunteer organizations, giving the mosque a special aesthetic as it is one of the most important holy places in the country.

It is not possible but to stand with reverence and respect for all the meanings of morality, altruism, and dedication to the organizers who provided meticulous logistical support to the mosque, in a way that ensures the comfort and service of the worshippers to the fullest. — KUNA



The medical team present at the mosque.



Volunteers help with directing traffic.