

3 Kuwait University opens Al-Shedadiya fire station



7 Rahul Gandhi found guilty of defamation



16 Battle to buy Man United heating up



RAMADAN TIMINGS	
Fajr	04:29
Shurooq	05:48
Dhuhr	11:54
Asr	15:24
Maghrib	18:02
Isha	19:19

Saudi, Iran foreign ministers exchange Ramadan greetings

FMs vow to meet 'soon', reopen embassies, consulates



KUWAIT: A vendor sets up his shop with Ramadan decorations in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

RIYADH: The Saudi and Iranian foreign ministers spoke by phone to mark the beginning of Ramadan, vowing to meet "soon" to implement a landmark bilateral reconciliation deal, Riyadh said on Thursday. The Saudi minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, called Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and the pair "exchanged congratulations on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan", which begins Thursday in both countries, the Saudi foreign ministry said in a statement posted on Twitter.

"The two ministers agreed to hold a bilateral meeting soon in order to pave the way for the reopening of embassies and consulates between the two countries," the statement said. Saudi officials have said the ministers' expected meeting is the next step in a surprise Chinese-brokered rapprochement announced on March 10 intended to fully restore diplomatic ties seven years after they were severed.

Riyadh cut relations after Iranian protesters attacked Saudi diplomatic missions in 2016 following the

Saudi execution of Shiite cleric Nimr Al-Nimr—just one in a series of flashpoints between the two long-standing regional rivals. The deal is expected to see Shiite-majority Iran and mainly Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia reopen their embassies and missions within two months and implement security and economic cooperation deals signed more than 20 years ago.

On Sunday, an Iranian official said President Ebrahim Raisi had favorably received an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia from King Salman, though Riyadh has yet to confirm. Amir-Abdollahian told reporters the same day that the two countries had agreed to hold a meeting between their top diplomats and that three locations had been suggested, without specifying which. The detente between Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, and Iran, strongly at odds with Western governments over its nuclear activities, has the potential to reshape relations across a region characterized by turbulence for decades. — AFP

RAMADAN KAREEM

It is not about starving

By Karima BadrKandil

Have you ever tried to stop yourself from eating or drinking? Have you ever gone against your carnal desires? Have you ever had the experience of working under the pressure of hunger, thirst, and exhaustion with the expectation of maximum efficiency? Have you ever tried to bring out the best in yourself and suppress the worst for the entirety of a month?

To begin, in Islam, there are five pillars. (1) Testifying that there is no God except Allah and that Muhammad (PBUH) is His messenger. (2) Establishing prayer. (3) Giving Zakaat (obligatory charity taken from the rich and given to the poor). (4) Fasting during Ramadan. (5) Performing Hajj for those who are able to—it is performed once in a lifetime.

The fourth pillar, a fundamental principle of Islam, is the fasting of Ramadan. Ramadan is the holy month in which Muslims fast for thirty consecutive days from dawn till dusk during which they abstain from eating, drinking—the halal kind, and having marital relations. It is the opportune time for Muslims because Ramadan motivates and encourages them to face life's temptations. It is a time for a Muslim to enact major resolutions towards becoming a better person which inadvertently requires a great amount of self-regulation and restraint.

Unquestionably, such manifestation reaches its pinnacle in a Muslim's life during the holy month of Ramadan. The truth is that this is not applicable to everyone, but it is undeniable that every single Muslim prepares to receive the month, takes delight in its arrival, and grieves for its departure.

In Ramadan, Muslims are more aware of the purpose and importance of submitting to God's commands and following the sunnah (tradition) of His prophet (PBUH) and so every household begins to incentivize young children—those who have not yet reached puberty—to practice

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MoH preparing report to amend medicine fee law

KUWAIT: The Health Ministry has prepared a report to be presented to Health Minister Dr Ahmad Al-Awadhi, which includes selling medicine to expatriates at hospitals and clinics instead of paying a

fixed KD 5 fee to receive their medicines, even as the report praised the decision to impose higher fees on expatriates for receiving medicine.

"The new report finds the consumption of medicines at the ministry's health centers and hospitals is still large, and expatriates are still the most who obtain the drugs relative to their number in the country, being twice the number of Kuwaitis. The procedures that monitor medicine waste require tighter control at medical stores as well as government pharmacies," sources told Kuwait Times.

"There are cases where twice as many medicines are

given to expatriates than they need, with the aim of manipulating the payment of fees, as some quantities of medicines are dispensed to an expatriate enough for more than one patient. The report included many cases at hospitals where expatriates are treated who utilize medical devices in addition to x-rays without paying their fees or sometimes paying only once," the sources added.

"This is done with the connivance of doctors or employees. The ministry is in the process of applying stricter measures to control and prevent such manipulation, and whoever transgresses the rules will face punitive measures," the sources concluded.

New 'glass-like' orchid species found in Japan

TOKYO: A new species of orchid with delicate, glass-like blooms has been discovered by Japanese scientists, who found the pink and white plant hiding in plain sight. Despite its presence in Japan's parks and gardens, it took researchers at Kobe University a decade to confirm that the plant—dubbed the "Spiranthes hachijoensis"—was a previously unknown species. "It was a surprise to discover a new species of spiranthes, which is so common that you can see it in parks, gardens and among potted plants," lead researcher Kenji Suetsugu told AFP Thursday.



NICHINAN: Photo shows a 'spiranthes hachijoensis' (Orchidaceae), a new species of orchid, in Nichinan, Miyazaki prefecture. — AFP

Some of the samples were "from potted plants and gardens", including ones kept at a high school in Japan's central Gifu region, the phytoLOGY professor said. — AFP

Barring expats from entering co-ops 'illegal'

KUWAIT: The Consumer Protection Association slammed as illegal decisions made by a number of cooperative societies banning expatriates from entering for shopping and buying products during the holy month of Ramadan under the pretext that a large number of shoppers at co-ops leads to overbuying of Ramadan products sold at discounted prices.

"Preventing expatriates from entering any cooperative society and limiting products to citizens only is against the law," Head of the Consumer Protection Association Meshaal

Al-Manae said. "There is absolutely no justification for a co-op's refusal to sell goods to consumers, whether citizens or expatriates. The consumer protection law protects against such decisions. Cooperative societies are establishments that have a commercial license from the commerce ministry and the market law applicable to other similar establishments also applies to them," he said.

"We have notified the commerce ministry and concerned authorities of the importance of intervening and preventing such unstudied and harmful decisions," Manae added. In this context, an official source at the National Guard Society denied reports circulated on social media about preventing sales to non-Kuwaiti consumers. "National Guard Society welcomes all segments of the Kuwaiti society, citizens or expatriates," it stressed.

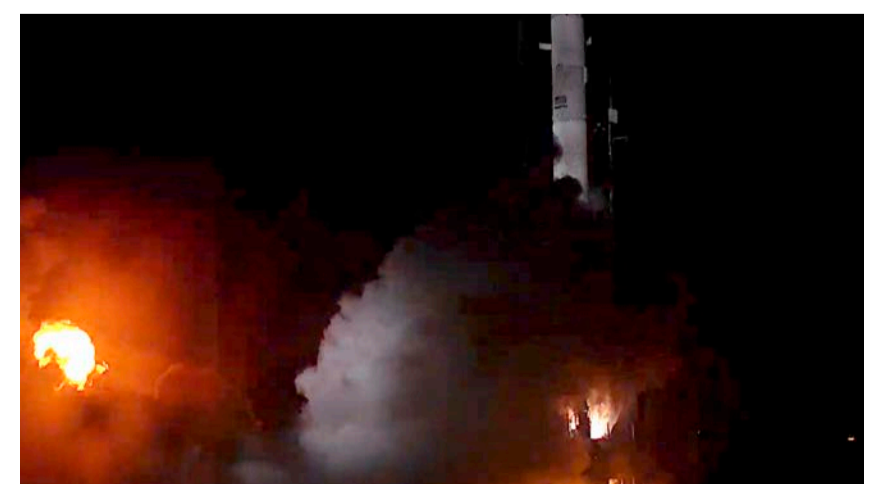
First 3D-printed rocket lifts off but fails to reach orbit

WASHINGTON: The world's first 3D-printed rocket launched successfully on Wednesday, marking a step forward for the California company behind the innovative spacecraft, though it failed to reach orbit. Billed as less costly to produce and fly, the unmanned Terran 1 rocket launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida at 11:25 pm but suffered an "anomaly" during second-stage separation as it streamed towards low Earth orbit, according to a livestream broadcast by aerospace

startup Relativity Space.

The company did not immediately give further details. While it failed to reach orbit, Wednesday's launch proved that the rocket—whose mass is 85 percent 3D-printed—could withstand the rigors of lift-off. The successful launch came on the third attempt. It had originally been scheduled to launch on March 8 but was postponed at the last minute because of propellant temperature issues. A second attempt on March 11 was scrubbed due to fuel pressure problems. Had Terran 1 reached low Earth orbit, it would have been the first privately funded vehicle using methane fuel to do so on its first try, according to Relativity.

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FLORIDA: This handout screengrab shows the third launch attempt of the first 3D printed rocket, Terran 1, from Launch Complex 16 in Cape Canaveral. —AFP

