



**7** Afghan orphaned toddler finally reunited with family



**8** Alibaba to split into 6 groups, separate IPOs expected



**16** Qadisiya beat Salmiya to win Zain Cup



### RAMADAN TIMINGS

Fajr	04:22
Shurooq	05:42
Dhuhr	11:53
Asr	15:23
Maghrib	18:04
Isha	19:22



# Defendants jailed in 1MDB case

Assembly office holds meeting • Panel to discuss election commission

## Sinkhole opens up at Ardhiya construction site



**KUWAIT:** A sinkhole opened up in Ardhiya industrial area as a result of digging work by a company, which caused an underground pipe to break. The ministry of public works said in a statement the incident is not related to any of its projects, noting a private contractor not contracted by the ministry is responsible for the damage, stressing no landslide

took place. Kuwait Municipality later said it issued a citation to the contractor responsible for the ground collapse. The site was of a building under construction, during the basement digging stage. The contractor has a safety license. Work has been suspended at the location for the safety of pedestrians and workers, the Municipality announced.

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The criminal court on Tuesday sentenced two Kuwaiti defendants to 10 years in jail over money laundering charges as part of the worldwide scandal of the so-called Malaysian Fund. The court also passed a 10-year jail sentence against two foreign accomplices, a French businessman of Syrian descent and a Malaysian businessman and financier, who is the main defendant in the scandal involving 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), the Southeast Asian country's sovereign wealth fund. The court also jailed a Kuwaiti lawyer for seven years.

The court ordered the convicts to return \$1 billion and fined them KD 145 million. The court convicted them of laundering \$1 billion sent by the Malaysian convict using a Kuwaiti bank account, and then transferring the money to Swiss bank accounts. Under former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak, the country's sovereign fund was systematically embezzled for a total of \$4.5 billion, with the Malaysian businessman convicted in Kuwait playing an instrumental role in the fraud.

The money was sent to several countries including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, China and others. The court's ruling is not final, as it can be appealed before the court of appeals and

the court of cassation, the highest in the country. The case attracted huge attention in Kuwait, especially in the National Assembly, where MPs demanded an investigation into the major money laundering case.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Assembly office, the second meeting since the house, dissolved by HH the Amir last year, was re-instated in a landmark ruling by the constitutional court last week. The court found faulty procedures in the Amiri decree dissolving the Assembly and decided to scrap the entire election process held in Sept 2022 that resulted in the opposition winning a landslide victory.

The ruling has plunged Kuwait into a new political crisis with the opposition rejecting the court's verdict and insisting they will not cooperate with the re-instated house. Ghanem had called for holding fresh elections but only after passing a number of laws to ensure the integrity of the polls, including approving a draft law to establish a higher election commission.

The legislative and legal committee of the re-instated Assembly is meeting today to discuss the draft law for setting up the election commission. It will send its report to the Assembly for approval. The re-instated Assembly has not held sessions yet as it awaits Prime Minister-designate HH Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah to announce his new Cabinet.

### RAMADAN KAREEM

## Loving and respecting parents in Islam

By Hassan Twaha Bwambale

Our parents have been with us throughout most of our lives, teaching and mentoring us – among others. In Islam, honouring and respecting one's parents is not something to be done occasionally, rather, they should be honoured and respected every single moment. Almighty Allah tells us what can be translated as: "And your Lord has decreed (for all) that you should not worship other than Him and be dutiful to your parents. Should either one or both (of them) reach old age (under your care), then do not say to either of them (even so much as) Uff (Fie) nor should you rebuke them. Rather, say to both a gracious word." (Al-Isra'a 17: 23)

Abdullah bin Amr (RA) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said what can be translated as: "The following (categories of) people will not enter Paradise (if they do not repent): One who frequently reminds others of his favours, one who is disobedient to his parents, and a drunkard..." (Al-Albani rated it as saheeh (authentic) in Saheeh An-Nasa'ei # 5, 688)

Nowadays, some people yell and argue with their parents incessantly, often over insignificant and trivial issues and topics. It is easy for them to spend hours online or hanging out with friends, but they cannot stand spending even a second in the presence of a parent. Spending quality time with your dear ones is of paramount significance. As you age, your parents grow older as well, limiting the time that you have left to spend in their company.

Parents in the Noble Quran: The Majestic Allah says what can be translated as: "Your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and

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## 6 killed at US school in latest mass shooting

**NASHVILLE:** A heavily armed former student killed three young children and three staff in what appeared to be a carefully planned attack at a private elementary school in Nashville on Monday, before being shot dead by police. Chief of Police John Drake named the suspect as Audrey Hale, 28, who left behind a manifesto and had maps of the school detailing surveillance and entry-exit points.

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## Egyptians cling to Ramadan charity as inflation soars

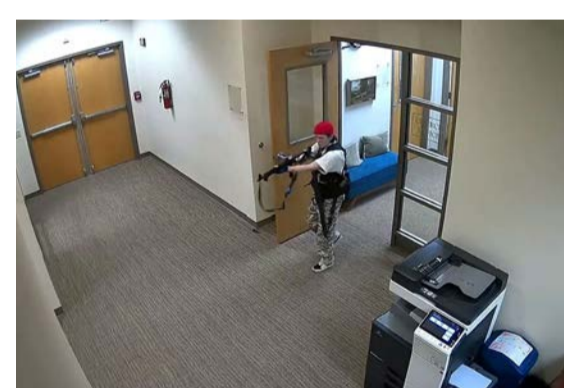
**CAIRO:** In a time of dire economic trouble, Egyptians are holding fast to the Ramadan tradition of charity, with both donors and those in need pinning hopes on holiday generosity. Families have buckled under the weight of inflation, which hit 32.9 percent in February as Egyptians tried to fill their shelves ahead of the Islamic holy month of daytime fasting and special evening meals, known as iftar.

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## 39 killed in fire at Mexico-US border center

**CIUDAD JUAREZ:** At least 39 migrants died in a fire that broke out at an immigration detention center in a Mexican city on the US border, the Mexican government said Tuesday. The fire broke out shortly before midnight at the National Migration Institute (INM) facility in Ciudad Juarez, prompting the mobilization of firefighters and dozens of ambulances. An AFP journalist saw forensic personnel remove a dozen bodies from the INM's parking lot, where several other bodies were laid and covered with blankets.

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**NASHVILLE:** This handout video grab released on March 27, 2023 shows suspect Audrey Hale holding an assault rifle at Covenant School. — AFP



**CAIRO:** In this file photo taken on April 16, 2022, Muslims gather along street-long tables to break their Ramadan fast together in the Matariya suburb. — AFP



**CIUDAD JUAREZ:** Firefighters and police rescue migrants from an immigration center, where at least 39 people were killed and dozens injured after a fire. — AFP

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Medics to arrive after Ramadan

**KUWAIT:** After Ramadan, a number of medical specialists from Pakistan, India and the Philippines will arrive to work in hospitals and medical centers in Kuwait. Sources at the health ministry told Kuwait Times the ministry agreed to bring in 300 Pakistani doctors to work in Kuwait, after it found previous batches of doctors to be competent. Approximately 600 new male and female nurses from India and the Philippines will also arrive in Kuwait after Ramadan on thrice-weekly flights, after contracting procedures were completed. Nurses from India and the Philippines contracted earlier this year will arrive at a later date to work in three large private hospitals.

#### Xi hails Middle East thaw

**BEIJING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping lauded what he called the easing of tensions in the Middle East during a call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Tuesday. Beijing brokered an agreement between Tehran and Riyadh on March 10 to restore diplomatic ties following a seven-year freeze. In his first public comments on the matter, Xi said the dialogue promoted by China would "play a major role in strengthening regional unity and cooperation". Prince Mohammed on Tuesday "expressed the kingdom's appreciation for the Chinese initiative to support efforts to develop neighborhood relations" between the two sides. — AFP

#### Saudi bus crash kills 20

**RIYADH:** A bus ferrying pilgrims to the holy city of Makkah burst into flames after a collision on a bridge in the southern province of Asir on Monday, killing 20 people and injuring more than two dozen others, Saudi state media reported. "According to preliminary information we have now received, the number of deaths in this accident reached 20, and the total number of injuries was approximately 29," the state-affiliated Al-Ekhbariya channel reported. It said the victims had "different nationalities". The channel said the bus had "car trouble", without specifying, while the private newspaper Okaz said the accident resulted from an issue with the brakes. The vehicle "then collided with a bridge, overturned and caught fire". — AFP

