

SPORTS **Bahrain teams set** for international FRIDAY friendlies Senior men's football team and under-23 Olympic team in action in coming week | P12

Kyiv threatens Bakhmut counterattack

Sharon Stone dressed herself for first Oscars appearance 8 **CELEBS**

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HM King exchanges Ramadan greetings with GCC leaders TDT | Manama

is Majesty King Hamad Hbin Isa Al Khalifa exchanged greetings with HM Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said of Oman, HM King Abdulla II ibn Al Hussain of Jordan, the Emir of Kuwait HH Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, UAE President HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Egyptian President Abdul Fattah El Sisi.

HM King also exchanged Ramadan greetings with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and His Eminence Shaikh Dr Ahmed El-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif.

His Majesty expressed congratulations on marking the holy month of Ramada, wishing their countries and peoples further progress and prosperity.

Al-Azhar Al-Sharif Grand Imam congratulates HM King

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is Majesty King Hamad Hbin Isa Al Khalifa was congratulated by His Eminence Shaikh Dr Ahmed



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday hosted an Iftar banquet at Al Sakhir Palace, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. Their Highnesses, Royal Council members, and senior members of the Royal Family congratulated HM the King, wishing him abundant health and long life and Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

Next step 'soon'

Riyadh says Saudi, Iran FMs hold call, vow to meet

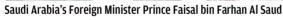
To hold a bilateral meeting soon

Aims at reopening of embassies and consulates

• To implement security and economic cooperation deals

TDT | agencies





Twitter, the Saudi foreign min- countries," the statement said. istry said Saudi minister, Prince

Saudi officials have said the

Iran and 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 favourably 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 Faisal bin Farhan, called Hos- ministers' expected meeting is hold a meeting between their sein Amir-Abdollahian and "ex- the next step in the surprise top diplomats and that three changed congratulations on the Chinese-brokered rapproche- locations had been suggested, Experts say the detente between Saudi Arabia and Iran Riyadh cut relations after Ira- has the potential to reshape re-

Lebanon at 'very dangerous moment': IMF Beirut, Lebanon

≺risis-hit Lebanon is "at a very dangerous moment", a visiting International Monetary Fund delegation said yesterday, criticising slow progress on reforms needed to unlock billions in loans.

Lebanon and the IMF reached a conditional agreement in April 2022 on a \$3-billion-dollar loan needed to save the country's economy, in free fall since 2019. But nearly a year after Beirut signed the agreement, officials have yet to enact the substantial changes required to kickstart the 46-month financing programme. "We think Lebanon is at a very dangerous moment, at a crossroads," said Ernesto Ramirez Rigo, who headed the IMF delegation to Beirut.

Farmers' market to open at 8 pm



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The Bahraini Farmers ▲ Market will open doors this Saturday from 8 pm until midnight at the Budaiya Botanical Gardens.

The market, now in its 10th edition, has the participation of 32 farmers, five

El-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif on the holy month of Ramadan in a phone call.

Shaikh Dr El-Tayeb congratulated HM the King, praying to Allah the Almighty to bless Bahrain and the Arab and Islamic nations with further progress and prosperity.

InterNations ranks Bahrain as 'Best **Destination**' for Expatriates





he Saudi and Iranian forvowed to meet "soon" to implement the landmark telephonic conversation.

In a statement posted on consulates between the two

Ramadan". "The two ministers agreed to they were severed. bilateral reconciliation deal hold a bilateral meeting soon in announced on March 10 in a order to pave the way for the nian protesters attacked Saudi lations across the region char-

eign ministers yesterday occasion of the holy month of ment intended to fully restore without specifying which. diplomatic ties seven years after

reopening of embassies and diplomatic missions in 2016.

The deal is expected to see decades.

Clean getaway

nurseries, four apiaries, and four agricultural companies. This year's market also acterised by turbulence for

features four dates specific activities and 20 productive families.

220 fils (includes VAT)



US prisoners use toothbrush to dig hole, go for pancakes

Washington, United States

Tt was almost a clean getaway: Ltwo American inmates dug their way out of prison with the help of a toothbrush -- only to be arrested hours later at a pancake restaurant.

The two men, identified as John Garza, 37, and Arley Nemo, 43, were reported missing from the Newport News Jail Annex Monday evening in the state of Virginia.

They used makeshift tools flaw metal object to take advantage used in construction. of what the sheriff's office called of the prison to gain access to that wall and scaled another to branch of a pancake restaurant forcement. It reinforces what we reasons," the statement said.



They used makeshift tools to take advantage of a construction

made from a toothbrush and a unsecured reinforcement bars escape.

a construction flaw in a wall they punched a hole through the wee hours of Tuesday at a at the IHOP and notified law en- situation further for security



CAPTURED

make their chain called IHOP in the nearby town of Hampton. But their taste of freedom was

"I'm thankful for the citizens Using the reinforcement bar, brief, as they were arrested in who observed Garza and Nemo cured, we will not discuss the

always say, 'see something, say something,' Sheriff Gabe Morgan said.

Garza was in custody on charges including contempt of court and probation violations, while Nemo was in for offenses including credit card fraud and forgery, the statement said.

The sheriff's office would not reveal exactly how the men exploited the flaw in the prison's construction.

"Due to the fact that this weakness presents itself throughout the facility, and until all weaknesses are identified and se-