



HM King exchanges Ramadan greetings with GCC leaders

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa exchanged greetings with HM Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said of Oman, HM King Abdullah 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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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa was congratulated by His Eminence Shaikh Dr Ahmed 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



220 fils (includes VAT)



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

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The Saudi and Iranian foreign ministers yesterday vowed to meet "soon" to implement the landmark bilateral reconciliation deal announced on March 10 in a telephonic conversation.

In a statement posted on



Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud

Twitter, the Saudi foreign ministry said Saudi minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, called Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and "exchanged congratulations on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan".

"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 the surprise Chinese-brokered rapprochement intended to fully restore diplomatic ties seven years after they were severed.

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

The deal is expected to see

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 hold a meeting between their top diplomats and that three locations had been suggested, without specifying which.

Experts say the detente between Saudi Arabia and Iran has the potential to reshape relations across the region characterised by turbulence for decades.

Lebanon at 'very dangerous moment': IMF

Beirut, Lebanon

Crisis-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 nurseries, four apiaries, and four agricultural companies.

This year's market also features four dates specific activities and 20 productive families.

Clean getaway

US prisoners use toothbrush to dig hole, go for pancakes

Washington, United States

It was almost a clean getaway: two 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 made from a toothbrush and a metal object to take advantage of what the sheriff's office called a construction flaw in a wall of the prison to gain access to



They used makeshift tools to take advantage of a construction flaw

unsecured reinforcement bars used in construction.

Using the reinforcement bar, they punched a hole through that wall and scaled another to

make their

escape. But their taste of freedom was brief, as they were arrested in the wee hours of Tuesday at a branch of a pancake restaurant

CAPTURED



John M. Garza



Arley V. Nemo

chain called IHOP in the nearby town of Hampton.

"I'm thankful for the citizens who observed Garza and Nemo at the IHOP and notified law enforcement. It reinforces what we

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 secured, we will not discuss the situation further for security reasons," the statement said.