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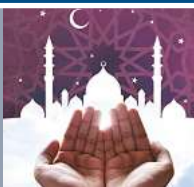
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Gulf News wishes its readers Ramadan Kareem



Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

■ Ramadan decoration at Deira City Center. Ramadan in the UAE is a time when residents and visitors are offered an array of shopping promotions as well as discounts at shopping malls.

UAE leaders share greetings as Ramadan begins today

President and Vice-Presidents congratulate leaders of Arab, Islamic nations

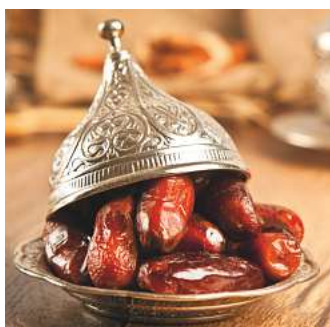
ABU DHABI/DUBAI
BY KHITAM AL AMIR
Chief News Editor

President His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, sent congratulatory messages to the kings, emirs, and presidents of Arab and Islamic nations, on the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed wished the leaders and their people continued good health and well-being, and further progress and prosperity for Arab and Islamic nations.

"With the start of Ramadan, I extend my best wishes to all those observing the holy month. May this period of reflection and prayer bring us closer together and strengthen our bonds of unity and compassion. I wish you a blessed Ramadan filled with peace, harmony, and spiritual growth," he wrote on his account on X.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and



PRAYER TIMINGS

IFTAR 18:29

Fajr	05:15	Shuruq	06:29
Dhuhr	12:32	Asr	15:54
Maghrib	18:29	Isha	19:43

IMSAK 05:05

Add 4 minutes for Abu Dhabi, deduct 4 minutes for RAK and 6 minutes for Fujairah

With the start of Ramadan, I extend my best wishes to all those observing the holy month. May this period of reflection and prayer bring us closer together and strengthen our bonds of unity and compassion. I wish you a blessed Ramadan filled with peace, harmony, and spiritual growth."

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and Shaikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Presidential Court, also sent similar messages to Arab and Muslim leaders on the holy occasion.

'An opportunity'

Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid wrote on X account: "We congratulate the people of the Emirates and all the Arab and Islamic peoples on the ad-

vent of the holy month... and we ask God for contentment and contentment... and victory in Paradise... Ramadan is an opportunity... every year.

"An opportunity to strengthen the cohesion of our societies... renew our family ties... and consolidate the values of goodness and giving in us... Ramadan is not only a month of prayer and fasting... but also a month of love, peace and unity among Muslims."

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NATION

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Israel pounds Gaza as fasting month starts

AMERICA SENDS SHIP TO BUILD PIER TO PROVIDE AID TO HUNGRY PALESTINIANS

GAZA STRIP

Deadly fighting raged on in Gaza yesterday, with no truce in sight on the eve of the holy month of Ramadan and a dire humanitarian crisis gripping the besieged Palestinian territory.

A Spanish charity ship carrying food aid was expected to soon set sail from the Mediterranean island-nation of Cyprus to help alleviate the suffering in the coastal Gaza Strip, now in its sixth month of war.

The non-governmental group Open Arms said its boat would carry 200 tonnes of food, which its partner the US charity World Central Kitchen would then unload on the shores of Gaza where it had constructed a basic dock.

As famine looms in parts of besieged Gaza, US, Jordanian and other planes have also air-dropped food aid there, but UN agencies warn this falls far short of the needs of its 2.4 million people.

Meanwhile, a US Army vessel carrying equipment for building a temporary pier in Gaza was on its way to the Mediterranean yesterday, three days after US

President Joe Biden announced plans to ramp up aid deliveries by sea to the besieged enclave where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been going hungry.

The opening of the sea corridor showed increasing alarm over Gaza's humanitarian crisis and a new willingness to bypass Israeli control over land shipments.

'Close-quarter combat'

As fighting and bombardment continued to rock Gaza, 81 bodies arrived overnight at barely functioning hospitals, according to the health ministry.

Troops were also engaged in "close-quarter combat" in the southern city of Khan Yunis, where strikes had killed 17 militants.

—Agencies

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31,045

Palestinians killed in Gaza since the start of the war on October 7

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