

TUESDAY

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RAMADAN 7, 1447

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WAM

Lights glow at a major intersection in Al Ain in Ramadan. If Eid falls on a Friday or Saturday, the dedicated public holiday days remain fixed as announced.

UAE announces Eid Al Fitr holidays

Federal offices close for four days to mark Eid celebrations

DUBAI
BY LEKSHMY PAVITHRAN
Assistant Online Editor
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The UAE has announced that all public and private sector entities will observe a holiday for Eid Al Fitr.

The Federal Authority for Government Human Resources confirmed that all federal ministries, institutions, and public sector entities will be on holiday from March 19 to 22, with official working hours resuming on March 23.

For private sector employees, the holiday will run from



IFTAR 18:21

Fajr	05:29	Shuruq	06:43
Dhuhr	12:35	Asr	15:51
Maghrib	18:21	Isha	19:35

IMSAAK 05:19

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

The decision will depend on the moon sighting that marks the conclusion of Ramadan, a period of fasting, reflection, and community gatherings. Citizens and residents are encouraged to plan their travel and festive activities accordingly.

Immovable holidays

Under the UAE Cabinet resolution governing public holidays, the Cabinet holds the authority to move most public holidays to either the start or the end of a working week.

However, there is an important exception – Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Adha holidays cannot be moved. This means that even if Eid falls on a Friday or Saturday, the dedicated public holiday days remain fixed as announced.

SEE ALSO P3

March 19 to 21. Authorities added that if Ramadan lasts 30 days, the private sector holiday will be extended to include March 22.

Federal employees: Holiday until March 22; work resumes March 23.

Private sector: Holiday until March 21; may extend to March 22 if Ramadan lasts 30 days.

Modi calls for AI labelling and child welfare focus

Indian PM presents vision for human-centric AI governance in *Gulf News* article

DUBAI
Gulf News Report

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for global AI labelling and child welfare focus as part of a broader push to make artificial intelligence more ethical, transparent and human-centric.

Writing an opinion piece in *Gulf News* after the AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi, Modi warned that generative AI systems are rapidly flooding the world with synthetic content, posing risks to democratic societies through deep-fakes and disinformation.

Drawing a comparison with food safety standards, he said digital content must carry authenticity labels, just as packaged food carries nutrition labels. He urged the global community to work towards shared standards for watermarking and source verification to ensure that users can distinguish between human-generated and AI-generated material. India, he noted, has already taken a



Narendra Modi

step in this direction by legally mandating clear labelling of synthetically generated content.

Modi also highlighted the need to protect children in an increasingly AI-driven world. AI systems, he said, must incorporate safeguards that promote responsible, family-guided engagement, reflecting the same level of care applied in education systems worldwide.

The call forms part of India's wider vision for human-centric AI governance, anchored in the MANAV framework, which emphasises ethical systems, accountable oversight, national sovereignty, accessibility and legal legitimacy in the development and deployment of AI.

SEE ALSO P6

Iran hopeful of deal despite US build-up

TEHRAN HOWEVER WARNS IT WILL RESPOND TO ANY 'ACT OF AGGRESSION'

PARIS

Iranian officials held out hope for progress towards a deal to forestall fresh conflict when talks with US negotiators resume on Thursday, despite a huge build-up of American military might in the Middle East.

Speaking to CBS News, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said details of a possible deal were being drawn up ahead of the renewed talks on Tehran's nuclear programme, after Washington's envoy Steve Witkoff had publicly wondered why Tehran had not yet "capitulated".

Badr Albusaidi, foreign minister of regional mediator Oman, said talks would resume on Thursday in Geneva "with a positive push to go the extra mile towards finalising the deal".

"If the US attacks us, then we have every right to defend ourselves," Araghchi said, alluding to American interests in the region as potential targets. Still, he said, "there is a good chance to have a diplomatic solution".

Encouraging signals

In a social media post, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian likewise said previous talks "yielded encouraging signals".

After a recent round of discussions in Geneva, Iran said it was preparing a draft proposal for

After a recent round of discussions in Geneva, Iran said it was preparing a draft proposal for an agreement that would avert military action.

avert military action. "I believe that when we meet, probably this Thursday in Geneva again, we can work on those elements and prepare a good text and come to a fast deal," Araghchi told CBS.

Axios had earlier reported, citing an unnamed senior US official, that if Iran submitted its proposal in the next 48 hours, Washington was ready to meet again later in the week "to start detailed negotiations".

Yesterday, foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said at a briefing in Tehran that any US attack, including limited strikes, would be an "act of aggression" that would precipitate a response. "An act of aggression would be regarded as an act of aggression. Period. And any state would react to an act of aggression as part of its inherent right of self-defence ferociously so that's what we would do."

Meanwhile, the US yesterday ordered non-emergency personnel to leave its embassy in Beirut.

— Agencies
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