

# Flashing green now in 173 traffic lights: works ministry

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Works Ministry announced activating a green light flashing system in 173 traffic lights in the Kingdom, where work is underway on 32 more traffic lights.

Maha Khalifa Hamadeh, the Director of Roads Planning and Design Department at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, said they started activating the sys-



tem in May 2019 in coordination with the General Traffic Department and is continuing.

“The goal is to give sufficient response time for drivers to bring their vehicles to a half as the red light appears,” he added. The flashing green comes immediately before switching off to yellow or red lights.

Hamadeh explained that they began activating the flashing system in February 2019 on an experimental basis to help re-

duce accidents.

The ministry, Hamadeh said, implemented the green light flashing system on all main streets and in several other locations.

The system is operational at Khalifa Al Kabeer Street, Airport Street, Abdul Rahman Al-Fadil Street, all traffic lights on Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Street and King Faisal Street, Sheikh Isa Street, Al Zubarah Street, Adliya Street, King Faisal Street,

Airport Road, Zallaq Street, Sanabis Street, Muharraq Street, Hamoud Bin Sabah Street, Bab Al Bahrain Street, etc.

The system is ready for activation in all of the optical signals in stages, Hamadeh added.

It is worth noting that the Ministry of Works won the Smart Traffic Solutions Award during the Smart Cities Conference last year for the intermittent green light flashing system in traffic lights.

# Shura Council to discuss law for stem cells, small vessel registration, marine fishing and others

The proposal aims at creating a regulatory framework for the practice of regenerative medicine

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A proposal for a law on the clinical usage of “stem cells”, amending a law regarding fishing and others are up for discussion in the Shura Council today.

The proposal regarding stem cells was by Dr Ahmed Salim Al Arrayedh, Dr Ibtisam Muhammad Saleh Al-Dalal, Mona Yousuf Almoayyed, Abdul Rahman Mohammed Jamsheer, and Dr Mohammed Ali Hassan Ali.

The proposal aims at creating a regulatory framework for the practice of regenerative medicine and the application of stem cells in the treatment, scientific research and pharmaceutical industries.

“This will lead to further progress in medical research and the inclusion of latest technologies and methods in treatment.”



Members said the law would help reduce the Kingdom’s dependence on nations abroad for medical treatment.

The council will today also discuss a draft law on reducing the consumption of energy drinks.

The draft law observes that increased consumption of energy drinks is creating harmful effects on the health of individuals.

Shura Council will also discuss a report by the Public Facilities and Environment Committee regarding Decree-Law No. (32) of 2020 regarding registration, safety and control rules of small vessels.

The discussion aims at filling a legislative void regarding the registration, safety, inspection and control of small vessels.

The decree-law, recommended for approval, aims at defin-

ing the terms of reference and tasks for each of the ports and maritime affairs at the Ministry of Transportation and Communication, Coast Guards at the Ministry of Interior to prevent overlapping of jobs.

The move also aims at updating the regulations related to small vessels on par with the international standards to attract investment and competition in the sectors.

The discussion will focus on bringing more clarity and transparency regarding the procedure and requirements for registering a vessel in the Kingdom.

The council will also discuss a recommendation by the Public Utilities and Environment Committee to approve a draft law amending some provisions of Decree-Law No. (20) of 2002 regarding the regulation of fishing, exploitation and protection of marine wealth.

The draft law calls for compensating anglers who hold licenses in the event of loss and protecting marine wealth by raising the penalties for some violations and deny the import of devices and equipment mentioned in Article (20) of the law.

Also up for discussion will be a report by the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee regarding the House of Representatives’ decision on a draft law amending Article (24) of Decree-Law No. (39) of 2002 related to the general budget.



**Regenerative medicine is the branch of medicine that develops methods to regrow, repair or replace damaged or diseased cells, organs or tissues. It includes the generation and use of therapeutic stem cells, tissue engineering, and the production of artificial organs.**



# Breaking Ramadan etiquettes attract jail terms, fine

● As one of the five pillars, or duties, of Islam, fasting during the month of Ramadan is mandatory for all healthy adult Muslims. Meaning they have to abstain from eating, drinking and smoking from dawn to sunset.

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Public consumption of food materials during fasting hours of the Holy Month of Ramadan is considered offensive and will attract jail terms of up to a year and hefty fines.

If an individual wants to eat or drink in daylight hours during Ramadan, it should be done indoors and out of sight.

As one of the five pillars, or duties, of Islam, fasting during



the month of Ramadan is mandatory for all healthy adult Mus-

lims. Meaning they have to abstain from eating, drinking and

smoking from dawn to sunset. Generally, fasting is not com-

manded to people who suffer from medical conditions or women who are pregnant. However, the same rules apply to them as well – not to eat or drink in public places.

Breaking it in public is considered disingenuous to true Islamic religion and the law. Furthermore, articles 309 and 310 of the Penal Code criminalise insulting a recognised religious community, its rituals, or religious symbols— with a term of imprisonment up to one year or a fine not exceeding \$265 or 100 Bahraini dinars.

Fasting during Ramadan means abstinence from all food or drink, including water and chewing gum, from dawn to sunset.

After sundown, Muslims break their fast with iftar, with a meal which usually starts with dates and water or milk, followed by dinner.

A statement released by the Police Media centre also states

that speaking out loud during breaking fast also constitutes an insult to a ritual of religion during the month of Ramadan.

**Article 309**

Article 309 of the Penal code applies when a person speaks loudly or eats, drinks or smokes in public during fasting hours.

The rule of law, the statement says, applies to Muslims and non-muslims, and residents, citizens and foreigners.

Offences in this regard, the statements said, will attract jail terms between three months and a year and fines not exceeding 100 dinars.

Similar laws are in place in other Gulf Cooperation Council nations, with Kuwait spelling a maximum of one month in prison and a fine of 100 dinars.

In Dubai, failing to respect fasting laws will attract fines of up to Dh2,000 or a jail term of a month, according to Article 313 of the UAE Federal Punitive Law.



**What is Eid, and why are there two?**

Eid al-Fitr translates as the festival of breaking the fast and happens immediately after Ramadan. Eid al-Adha is the second celebration of the year and translates as the ‘festival of sacrifice’. Traditionally during this time, animals like sheep and goats are slaughtered. It’s around 70 days after the end of Ramadan and marks the end of the Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.



**Useful phrases**

Ramadan Mubarak = **Blessed Ramadan**  
 Ramadan Kareem = **Happy / generous Ramadan**  
 Iftar shahy = **Have a good iftar**  
 Mubarak aleik al Shahr = **May you get the blessings of the month**  
 Kil aam wa inta fee Kheir = **May each year pass and you be well**