

DT NEWS

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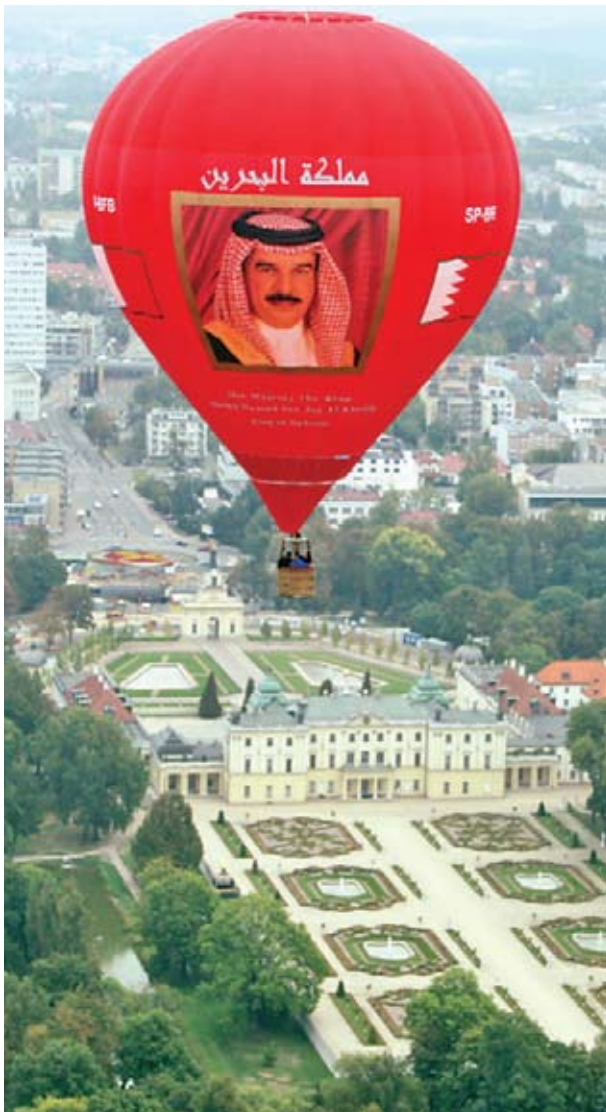
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FLYING HIGH



'The King of Bahrain Balloon' has been launched by Emirati balloonists team during its second tour from Poland along with the 'Emirates Balloon.' The initiative has been taken as an expression of appreciation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the people of Bahrain on the part of Emirati youths, hailing His Majesty's efforts in boosting the Gulf development march and his interaction and openness towards the people of the world. Balloonist and aviation captain Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Mansouri said that the participation of 'The King of Bahrain Balloon' will include several destinations like the USA, China and Japan to showcase the Kingdom's accomplishments under the leadership of His Majesty the King.

'A terrible mistake'

British Prime Minister David Cameron said yesterday that Kremlin chief Vladimir Putin's decision to take military action in Syria to support Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad was a "terrible mistake".

Russia has begun striking targets in Syria - a dramatic escalation of foreign involvement in the civil war, which has been criticized by some as an attempt to prop up Assad, rather than its purported aim of attacking Islamic State militants.

"They are backing the



Russian war planes set to carry out attacks in Syria.

butcher Assad, which is a terrible mistake for them and for the world," Cameron told

the BBC. "It's going to make the region more unstable, it will lead to further radicalization

and increased terrorism. I would say to them 'change direction, join us in attacking IS'."

Russia says it is targeting hardline Islamic State militants, but Cameron questioned that position. "Most of the Russian air strikes, as far as we've been able to see so far, have been in parts of Syria not controlled by IS (Islamic State), but controlled by other opponents of the regime," he said.

Cameron is keen for Britain to begin its own air strikes in Syria, joining allies in a U.S.-led coalition against Islamic

State, a self-declared caliphate spanning large areas of Syria and neighbouring Iraq. British bombing as part of the coalition so far has only targeted Islamic State in Iraq.

He signalled that he would push ahead with plans for a vote in parliament to approve military action against Islamic State in Syria, the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper said in its Sunday edition.

Vital to save Middle East: Assad

Beirut/Amman

Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad said the success of a military campaign by Russia, Syria and its allies was vital to save the Middle East from destruction, a day after Moscow said it would step up air strikes against Islamic State targets across Syria.

A year-long air campaign by Western and Arab air forces in Syria and Iraq had been counterproductive, Assad said, helping terrorism spread and win new recruits, but a coalition of

Syria, Russia, Iran and Iraq could achieve real results.

"It must succeed otherwise we face the destruction of the entire region, not only one or two states," he said in an interview with Iranian television broadcast on Sunday.

Assad was speaking days after Russian jets based in western Syria launched air strikes against targets Moscow has identified as Islamic State bases, but which Assad's opponents say disproportionately hit rival, foreign-backed insurgents.

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