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11th Hour

82 prisoners released

Manama

is Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has issued a Royal Decree, pardoning and releasing 82 inmates who served part of their jail terms. The decree was issued on the occasion of the anniversary of HM's Accession to the Throne and National Day

Kuwait forms new Cabinet

Kuwait City

Kuwait formed a new cabinet yesterday, led by Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah $met\,Prime\,Minister\,Sheikh\,Jaber$ Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah at Sief Palace yesterday, and the Prime Minister presented a list of new ministers. The Amir then issued a decree for the new cabinet. Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah was appointed as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. - IANS



02

Blast in Times Square



P 04

30% stake for RCO in Seef properties



'This is Bahrain' in hot water over Israeli trip

Muhannad Mansour/DTNN muhannad@dt.bh

Manama

The ongoing visit of a Bahraini delegation to Israel drew nationwide condemnation during the past two days, especially that its members were received and accompanied by Israeli officials, and not Palestinians.

"This is Bahrain", a civil society interfaith group, which is on a four-day visit to Israel, calls for globally promoting religious freedom, coexistence and tolerance.

The group members

appeared on Israeli TV channels in a visit that was said to be official and at a time when Arab and Muslim capitals are boiling over US President Donald Trump's recent controversial declaration of Al Quds (Jerusalem) as the capital of Israel.

They were shown while touring the alleys and markets of the old city.

of the old city.

This has been the most discussed matter in Bahrain since Saturday, the day when footage showing several members of the group speaking to Israeli news

channels went viral online.

The delegation included people from different religions, sects, churches, temples and groups living in Bahrain.

They were accompanied by 'This is Bahrain' President Betsy Mathieson.

'Message of peace'

While speaking to Israeli journalists, group member and Shite Scholar Fadhel Fateel said, "Our message is a message of peace to everywhere in the world. Shiites in Bahrain and other countries don't have any

grudge or hate against any religion or sect. We come to Al Quds to carry with us a message of peace and to visit this historic and religious landmark."

Mathieson also appeared in the same televised report saying, "We come here to the historic ancient city of Jerusalem to carry with us a message of peace."

Public uproar

The visit created a wave of anger among the different segments of the Bahraini society, becoming the most trending topic on local social nedia networks.

Thousands of Bahrainis condemned the visit and considered it as "a step towards the normalisation with Israel" and reiterated the Bahraini stance towards the Palestinian cause since the 1940s, rejecting Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands.

Some of them even demanded the closure of the society as they claimed that "it is insulting to the history and reputation of the Kingdom by adopting such unwelcome initiatives"

(Continued on Page 3)

Anger on social media against the group's visit to the Jewish country