

# DT NEWS

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## 11th Hour

### OIC backs resolution against Iran's policies

Jeddah

The foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) unanimously support a strong resolution condemning Iran for its hostile policies, Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Adel bin Ahmad Al-Jubeir said yesterday.

### Tweet of the Day



Apple is proud to support the courageous, visionary @Malala in advancing every girl's right to 12 years of free, safe, quality education. Together we're committing to expand the reach of @MalalaFund and provide secondary school opportunities to girls around the world.

@tim\_cook

Today's Weather		
	Max	Min
	22°C	12°C



P  
03

MP demands retroactive compensation to citizens



P  
09

Gulf Air's On Time Punctuality Garner Top Ranking in 2017



P  
24

Federer powers into quarters



HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

# Halt fresh fees, taxes: PM tells ministries

## Measure aimed at curbing price rise, helping ordinary citizens

### DT News Network Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday ordered all ministries and government departments to freeze further increase in fees or taxes that may affect the citizens until the joint executive-legislature committee reaches a consensus on the ongoing subsidy-restructuring mechanism.

The order follows a royal directive issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Chairing the regular weekly Cabinet session, at the Gudaibiya Palace, HRH Prime Minister also gave directives to ministries and government departments to widen the sources of income without resorting to a price increase or fee hike that may affect the citizens until a consensus is reached.

HRH Premier explained that this could be done through the optimal use of resources as well as effective policies, rationalising expenditure, avoiding unjustified spending, and attracting more investments.

### Cultural events lauded

HRH Prime Minister praised the artistic, cultural and educational events held recently under his patronage, and opened on his behalf by Deputy Premier, HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, including the 44th Annual Bahrain Fine Art Exhibition, which showcases the creativity of Bahraini artists, and the graduation ceremony of the 23rd batch of the University of Bahrain (UoB) students and postgraduates, reflecting the progress of the higher education march in the kingdom. HRH Premier

also congratulated the UoB graduates and their families, wishing them a fruitful future career, and commended the efforts of UoB's academic and administrative staff.

### HM's youth initiatives

The Cabinet lauded HM King Hamad's noble initiatives aimed at supporting and empowering youth, citing the international echoes of the "King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award" and highlighted its role in achieving sustainable development goals, shedding light on youth potentials

### Feb 13 half-day

HRH Prime Minister has declared February 13, the National Sports Day, a half-work day to pave the way for government employees to take part in the celebrations. All ministries and government departments are given directives to hold sports events on the day.

and creativity in various countries and in grabbing the attention of the world to their distinctive experiences and effective contributions.

(See also Page 3)

# \$1.5bn Saudi-led Coalition aid for Yemen

Riyadh

The Saudi-backed Arab Coalition would commit \$1.5 billion in new humanitarian aid for Yemen, where it is supporting the internationally recognised government against Iran-aligned Houthis.

The coalition said it would also "increase the capacities of Yemeni ports to receive humanitarian" imports.

The latest aid package, which follows last week's \$2 billion Saudi cash injection to Yemen's central bank, comes amid an ever-broadening crisis in the country, where the conflict, cholera and looming famine have killed thousands and put millions of lives at risk.

"The coalition will coordinate... \$1.5 billion in new humanitarian aid funding for distribution across UN

agencies and international relief organisations," the coalition announced in a statement. The new aid programme seeks to open land, sea and air lanes to Yemen to boost monthly imports to 1.4 million metric tons from 1.1 million last year, the statement said.

The coalition pledged up to \$40 million for the expansion of ports to accommodate additional humanitarian

shipments, adding that it would set up an air corridor between Riyadh and the central Yemeni province of Marib to run multiple aid flights of C130 cargo planes. The coalition said it would set up 17 additional "safe-passage corridors" to facilitate overland transport for humanitarian organisations operating in the remote interiors of Yemen. "The coalition is placing

its military resources at the disposal of these broad-ranging humanitarian operations," said coalition spokesman Turki al-Maliki.

"We are backing a professionally planned and detailed humanitarian mission with military power and precision to guarantee that the humanitarian aid reaches the people who need it to lift their suffering." - AFP