



Tom Hanks is overcome by 'selfdoubt' when he watches his films

BUSINESS

5 Shares ride high on upbeat oil prices; FAB drags Abu Dhabi

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CELEBS

Saudi Arabia lifts restrictions on Hajj pilgrim numbers this year

Riyadh

With no restrictions this year, the number of Hajj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia in the upcoming season will be similar to the pre-pandemic levels.

Saudi Arabia will not impose any restrictions, including age limits, on Hajj pilgrims in 2023, according to the Hajj and Umrah minister, Tawfiq Al Rabiah.

"The number of pilgrims will return to what it was before the pandemic, without any age limit," Al Rabiah announced during the opening of Hajj Expo 2023.



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

Bahrain fights global inflation

HRH Prince Salman issues directive to extend financial support to low-income families

Urgent plans and procedures underway to stabilise prices and ensure availability of commodities

TDT | Manama

A royal expert said that Prince Harry is extremely jealous of Prince William following the release of bombshell excerpts from the Duke of Sussex' memoir 'Spare'.

Royal expert Kinsey Schofield said: "I believe that Harry and Meghan are bitterly jealous of the Prince and Princess of Wales", adding that Prince Harry's jealousy of Prince William goes back to when he was a child.

"People weren't lining up in the streets to meet Meghan Markle from *Suits*," the commentator stated.

'I'm a mom now'
Quito

A man in Ecuador legally changed his gender to female to win a custody battle of his two young daughters in court, a report said.

Rene Salinas Ramos, 47, will now be listed as a female on official documents in Ecuador, the New York Post reported.

He still identifies as a male but the decision came as he wanted to attain the custody of his girls.

and ensure the availability of commodities.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister also ordered the temporary suspension of industrial land fees for food storage facilities for three months; the temporary suspension of approvals and fees required by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for supermarkets to run promotional campaigns for three months; and the intensification of inspection campaigns to monitor prices in local markets.

Outcomes

The Cabinet commended the outcomes of the fifth session of the Bahraini-Jordanian Joint Higher Committee meeting, which was co-chaired by HRH Prince Salman and the Minister of Defence of Jordan, Dr Bisher Al Khasawneh.

The Cabinet highlighted the agreements that were signed during the meeting, which will contribute to enhancing bilateral partnerships across trade and



commerce, labour and vocational training, healthcare, youth, education, information, and sea and air freight services.

The Cabinet declared Thursday, 2 February, a half workday at ministries and state departments, to mark National Sports

Day, which will be dedicated to emphasising the importance of sports and to allow staff to engage in sports events.

On the occasion of Diplomatic Day, which is observed annually in Bahrain on 14 January, the Cabinet commended the achievements made by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the diplomatic field, which have strengthened Bahrain's international standing and contributed to the development of its relations with various countries that share the goals of ensuring security and stability, in enhancing development at a global level.

The Cabinet congratulated the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education for winning the Arab Government Excellence Awards.

The Cabinet commended the achievements of the ministries and government agencies, for winning awards for excellence in government work at local, regional and international levels.

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Drones for Russia

Iran 'contributing to war crimes' in Ukraine

Mexico City

Iran could be contributing to war crimes in Ukraine by providing drones to Russia, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said yesterday.

"Their weapons are being used to kill civilians in Ukraine and to try to plunge cities into cold and darkness which, from our point of view, puts Iran in a place where it could potentially be contributing to widespread war crimes," Sullivan told reporters during a trip by President Joe Biden to Mexico.



Ukraine has been hit by swarms of kamikaze drones sold by Iran to Russia

The US has imposed sanctions on companies and people it accused of producing or transferring Iranian drones that Russia has used to attack civilian infrastructure in Ukraine.

The White House said last week that the US is also con-

sidering ways to target Iran's production of the unmanned weaponised aircraft through sanctions and export controls.

Death penalty

Meanwhile, Iran has sentenced to death three people accused of killing three members of the security forces during the protests triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini, the judiciary said yesterday.

The Islamic republic has been rocked by civil unrest since the

September 16 death of Kurdish Iranian Amini, 22, following her arrest for allegedly violating Iran's strict dress code for women.

The latest sentences, which can still be appealed, bring to 17 the total number of people condemned to death in connection with the more than three months of protests.

Four of those convicted have been executed and two others are on death row after their sentences were upheld by the country's supreme court.