



Emma Corrin to play Lady Diana in MONDAY 'The Crown' 200 FILS Newcomer Emma Corrin has bagged the role of Lady Diana Spencer in the show "The Crown". P14

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Jennifer Lopez doesn't believe Alex Rodriguez cheated on her

New Zealand gives final okay to gun laws 6

Green light for John Abizaid Washington

The US Senate voted over-L whelmingly yesterday to confirm retired General John Abizaid as the US ambassador to Saudi Arabia, filling a vital position vacant since President Donald Trump took office more than two years ago.

The Senate voted 92 to seven for the 68-year-old retired four-star Army general, who led US Central Command during the Iraq war.

Trump nominated Abizaid for the position in November 2018.

Gantz concedes defeat Tel Aviv

Aday after Israel's general election, Benny Gantz's Blue and White party conceded defeat against incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party yesterday.

"We didn't win in this round. We will make Likud's life hell in the opposition," Yair Lapid, number two in the centrist party led by former military chief Mr Gantz, said in a televised statement.

Mr Netanyahu's right wing Likud looked set to be able to stay in power after Tuesday's national ballot with the support of religious and rightist parties, although both Likud and Blue and White won the same number of seats in the 120-member parliament.

The victory, despite corruption allegations against Mr Netanyahu, 69, puts him on a path to win his fifth term in office and become Israel's longest-serving prime minister later this year.

Citizens' welfare 'prime objective'

His Majesty praises the role of legislature in implementing citizens' welfare schemes



His Majesty receives legislators at Sakhir Palace.

HM the King praised the role of **Bahraini women** members at the Shura and Representatives' councils in promoting the development.

House members welcomed the the royal commendation, stressing to work under HM the King's directives for the progress of Bahrain.

Manama

is Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa paid forts of the legislative branch to the Shura and Representatives' take on constitutional duties to councils in promoting the devel- progress of Bahrain. practise its supervisory and leg- opment, highlighting the efforts national culture. ceived at Sakhir Palace Council of forms and construction process. Representatives Speaker Fawzia Zainal, Shura Council Chairman the Representatives' and Shura's Ali Al Saleh, deputies of the two reply to the royal speech, which process. councils and members of the re- contained constructive ideas to

ply committee to the royal speech delivered at the Representatives and Shura councils marking the opening of the first session of the fifth legislative term.

HM the King expressed appreciation of the two councils' role in supporting the comprehensive national development, reinforcing the national unity and safeguarding the homeland and citizens' interests.

"Together, we are looking forward to a bright future of progress and development, especially with the promising oil discovery that would benefit the homeland and citizens," HM the King said.

HM the King pointed the loyal citizens, who are renowned for their consciousness and enthusiasm for serving their country and its development.

HM the King praised the role tribute to the sincere ef- of Bahraini women members at to follow in the footsteps of their This came as HM the King re- predecessors in support of the re-HM the King also commended



Together, we are looking forward to a bright future of progress and development, especially with the promising oil discovery that would benefit the homeland

HIS MAJESTY

serve performance improvement and democracy promotion, welcoming the national aptitudes for maintaining Bahrain's advanced standing in various fields, wishing out the firm fundamentals and the legislative branch success in assuming their duties. Members of the Representa-

tives and Shura councils present welcomed the royal commendation, stressing to work under HM the King's directives for the

Pompeo says Iran tied to **Al Qaeda** Washington

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 $U^{
m s}$ Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday accused Iran of ties to Al Qaeda and declined to say whether the Trump administration had legal authority to invade the country.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Pompeo hedged on whether the authorisation of force by the US Congress days after the September 11, 2001 attacks would allow the United States to strike Iran.



There is no doubt there is a connection between the **Islamic Republic** of Iran and Al Qaeda.

РОМРЕО

"I would prefer just to leave that to lawyers," Pompeo told Senator Rand Paul, a Republican who is critical of US foreign interventions.

"The factual question with respect to Iran's connections to Al Qaeda is very real. They have hosted Al Qaeda, they have permitted Al Qaeda to transit their country," he said.

"There is no doubt there is a connection between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Al Qaeda. Period, full stop, he said. But Pompeo denied Paul's suggestion that President Donald Trump's designation Monday of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards was aimed at making a legal case for war.

and citizens.

tion for the success of the general elections that reflected the people's political consciousness and its adherence to the royal reforms to practice its constitutional right in voting and nomination and to actively contribute to the development and democratic march.

The Council of Representatives' reply to the royal keynote speech comprised a praise for the democratic experience and the people's will to cast their votes, which reflected the citizens' solid cohesion and political awareness and the success of the royal reforms.

The Representatives pointed values contained in the royal speech supportive to patriotism and the progress of the country.

The parliament members underscored commitment to enact legislation to serve the national values, develop the current legislation to promote the national econ-The Shura had highlighted omy and revenue diversification, islative role and promote democ- of the fresh blood who joined the acute visions of HM the king, in addition to setting a time plan racy that stem from the genuine the Council of Representatives which are guiding the Council to to limit the public depth, hailing push on with the blessed march the huge efforts of HRH Prime led by HM the King. It underlined Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salcommitment to continue devel- man Al Khalifa and HRH Prince oping the parliamentary work Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, based on the Bahraini democratic Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy It shared the royal commenda- Prime Minister, in this regard.

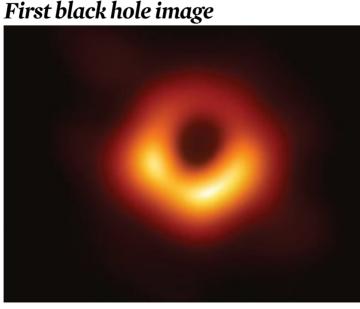


Psychiatrist 'spread false' news by accusing girls of consuming drugs

> Trio accused of not rescuing woman who attempted suicide, wins appeal

Battle for Tripoli escalates





Astronomers have taken the first ever image of a black hole, which is located in a distant galaxy. It measures 40 billion km across - three million times the size of the Earth - and has been described by scientists as "a monster". The black hole is 500 million trillion km away and was photographed by a network of eight telescopes across the world. Details have been published yesterday in Astrophysical Journal Letters. It was captured by the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), a network of eight linked telescopes. See Page 7

