

**Beyonce sings at A-list Indian event**

Beyonce has performed as part of the lavish festivities at the latest extravagant Indian celebrity wedding. Isha Ambani, the daughter of India's richest man, is tying the knot with Anand Piramal, son of another Indian billionaire, this week. **P13**

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**Women poll success hailed**  
 Manama

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) lauded the success of the parliamentary and municipal elections, praising the outstanding participation of Bahraini women as voters and candidates.



HRH Princess Sabeeka

She pointed out that six women won seats in the Representatives Council and four in the municipal councils, which asserts maturity of the Bahraini society and belief in women's ability to assume responsibilities side by side with men.

HRH Princess Sabeeka was speaking as she chaired the third meeting of SCW sixth session. **See Page 4**

**Brexit in turmoil**  
 London

British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday postponed Parliament's vote on her Brexit divorce deal with the European Union, acknowledging that lawmakers would have rejected it by a "significant margin."

The move averted a humiliating defeat for the government in a vote that had been scheduled for Tuesday.

But it throws Britain's Brexit plans into disarray, with the country's departure from the EU just over three months away on March 29.



03 Violator warned over putting caged monkey on display at farmers market

04 Bahraini women's poll success hailed

05 Art carnival to raise funds for expat workers' welfare



# The mission begins

Welfare schemes stressed as newly-formed Cabinet holds first meeting



HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince with other members of the Cabinet during a photocall before the beginning of the first session.

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa chaired the Cabinet session, attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.

The meeting is the first to be held by the new Cabinet which was formed as per Royal Decree 61/2018.

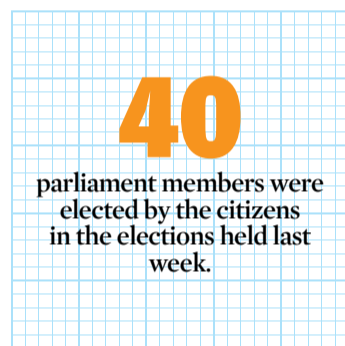
HRH the Prime Minister delivered a statement in which he extended thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on his precious trust, affirming that the new Cabinet will do its

utmost to implement the King's visions and achieve the citizens' aspirations.

HRH Premier expressed sincere congratulations to the newly-appointed cabinet members, and welcomed the new members. He also thanked the outgoing members for the tremendous efforts they had exerted.

HRH the Prime Minister pointed out that the first Government Action Plan (GAP) of the new cabinet will focus on achieving fiscal balance and economic stability, in addition to ensuring sustainable services and enhancing their quality, a post-session statement by the Cabinet Secretary-General, Dr Yasser Al Nasser said.

The Cabinet extended deepest congratulations to HM the King, HRH Premier and HRH



the Crown Prince, as well as to the Bahraini people on the kingdom's national celebrations on 16 and 17 December marking the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783 by its founder Ahmed Al Fateh, the 47th Anniversary of its accession to the UN as a full member and the 19th Anniversa-

ry of HM the King's Accession to the Throne.

The session recalled with pride Bahrain's innumerable achievements, distinguished regional and international status and leading role in various fields during HM King Hamad's prosperous era, wishing the kingdom's leadership and people ever-lasting security, stability and prosperity.

The session paid tribute to the kingdom's late servicemen, marking the Commemoration Day, which is observed on December 17 every year.

The session recalled with pride and appreciation the sacrifices made by the late servicemen who lost their lives while defending their country and protecting their Nation in the battlefields of honour, stressing

that they had set themselves as role models for sacrifice and dedication, and will always remain a source of pride.

The Prime Minister lauded the success of the 39th Summit of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in which HM King Hamad participated, and which was presided over by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

HRH the Prime Minister congratulated the newly-elected members of the Representatives Council for winning the confidence of the people of Bahrain, and the Shura Council members on the Royal trust bestowed upon them, wishing the Legislative Branch every success in carrying out their legislative and supervisory role.

BIG RESPITE

Smiles on little faces as MoE bans homework for students

● The ministerial decision was taken upon the recommendation of the specialised commissions after lengthy discussions over the previous months.

Manama

Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi has issued a decision approving the recommendation of the ministry's development commissions to ban homework for students and make school assignments an integral and inseparable part of class activities.

Student home assignments will be rescinded and replaced by daily hands-on exercises implemented under teachers' supervision inside the classroom before the end of each lesson in order to consolidate knowledge and hone skills as well as answer the queries of students, the ministry said yesterday.

The ministerial decision was taken upon the recommendation of the specialised commissions after lengthy discussions over the previous months.



This decision is effective from the beginning of the second semester 2018-2019.

This innovative approach is compatible with the ministry's efforts to develop academic curricula to suit the requirements of the twenty-first century and to instil the requisite skills, as part of the Ministry of Education (MoE)'s efforts to revise its plans and programmes according to international standards of teaching the basic subjects of mathematics, science and languages.

Both teachers and parents welcomed the move. Speaking to Tribune, a private school teacher on condition of anonymity said students were of-

ten pressured from the amounts of homework they were being given.

"I strongly suspect that when teachers face conditions such as pressure to meet arbitrary achievement goals, lack of planning time or little autonomy over curriculum, homework becomes an easy option to make up what could not be covered in class," he said.

Speaking to Tribune, Ramshankar Maheswaran, a father of Class Six student said it was a best directive that is going to make a huge difference in the lives of children.

"Students are leading a life of machines. This should end and I welcome the move," he said.

Missing expat found dead

TDT | Manama  
 Mohammed Zafran

A resident who went missing on Sunday was found dead yesterday. Satheesh Kumar, the Indian national was found dead inside his car in Hidd.

He was reported by his friends and relatives as missing since 8:30 am on Sunday after he left his apartment.

According to his friends and relatives, he had headed to work, however, he never reached his place of work.

"He left his apartment to go to work and we became concerned when he never reached the office.

"We tried calling him but he did not answer and this was when we realised something was not right.

"We began a search mission on social media networks and alerted the police," his cousin told Tribune.

The cousin said that Kumar had a history of serious medical conditions.

"His health was something we were all concerned about. Last year he had a stroke and so when he went missing we were worried if he had suffered another one."

The car was found in a parking lot in Hidd Industrial Area.



The parked car in which Kumar's body was found in Hidd.



Mr Kumar

"The place is surrounded by policemen and we are not allowed to the area as investigations are going on," one of the friends of the deceased, said.

"At this point, we do not know what exactly happened," the friend added.

Kumar, 56, had been a resident of Bahrain for the past 30 years. He was employed as a salesman. Sources said he was planning to visit his hometown this week.