

**REHC set for action-packed day**

A thrilling day of action is set to take place today at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Riffa. **P16**

OPED **8** Meet Tania Lodi, creator of the 7th most instagrammable cafe in the world

THE DAILY **tribune**



Salma Hayek spilled water on Eminem at the Oscars **14** CELEBS

WORLD **12** Trump says he does not mind if Philippines cuts military pact

**Turkey increases e-visa fees for Bahrainis, says Foreign Ministry**

Bahraini citizens wishing to visit the Turkish Republic will now have to pay more, as the authorities there have hiked the electronic entry visa fees for Bahrainis to US\$77, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement yesterday.

Holders of the diplomatic and special passport can obtain their visa upon arrival, for staying in the Turkish Republic for a maximum of 15 days.

However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement said, diplomatic and special passport holders should apply for an entry visa through the Turkish Embassy for staying longer in the country.

**Leadership hails National Action Charter milestone**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain's leadership yesterday extended congratulations to the people of Bahrain on the 19th anniversary of the National Action Charter (NAC), which transformed the political, social and economic dimensions of the Kingdom.

The document put forward by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in 2001 was approved in a national referendum with 98.5 per cent voting in favour. Voters turnout for the referendum which took place on 14 and 15 February was 90.2pc.

In a message, His Royal Highness, the Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, paid tribute to HM the King hailing his "far-sighted vision and wisdom in leading Bahrain's march of development and progress."

HM, the King thanked the Premier, lauding his role in building modern Bahrain, and said that he is looking forward to seeing "more landmark achievements for the bright future of the coming generations."

His Royal Highness, Prince Salman bin



Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, in a message, stressed HM the King's role as chairman of the committee in charge of activating the National Action Charter.

HRH the Premier and HRH the Crown Prince also exchanged cables of congratulations.

His Majesty also received a cable of congratulations from Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Presi-

dent on the 19th anniversary of NAC. HM the King's Representative for Charity Work and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, extended profound congratulations to the leadership as well as the Bahraini people.

In a statement, HH Shaikh Nasser expressed pride in the National Action Charter, praising the landmark achievements and the comprehensive development march that has made Bahrain a

Looking forward to more landmark achievements for the bright future of the coming generations in the Kingdom of Bahrain

HIS MAJESTY THE KING

**Boosting ties**



His Royal Highness, Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, at his residence in Germany with Kuwaiti Prime Minister, His Highness, Shaikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who visited the Premier to get reassured about his health. He also conveyed to HRH the Premier greetings and congratulations from the Amir of Kuwait, HH Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and Crown Prince, HH Shaikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. HRH the Premier expressed deepest thanks to his Kuwaiti counterpart for his visit and praised the strong fraternal relations between Bahrain and Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Prime Minister congratulated HRH the Premier on his successful recovery

**New clashes in Libya despite ceasefire call**

Tripoli

Rival forces clashed in the Libyan capital yesterday, causing new civilian casualties in the grinding conflict a day after a UN Security Council resolution called for a "lasting ceasefire".

The resolution was the council's first since eastern Libya strongman Khalifa Haftar launched an offensive last April to seize Tripoli, the seat of the UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA).

But the text, which calls in particular for the consolidation of a fragile truce observed since January 12, has not yielded the desired results.



Forces backing Libya's unity government, seen here last May, have been battling Haftar's forces since he launched an April offensive to take the capital

A new round of violence on the southern outskirts of the Libyan capital on Thursday left civilians dead and wounded. Tripoli's sole functioning airport of Mitiga, frequently shut down by violence, announced

it was again suspending flights following a rocket strike.

Witnesses heard explosions in the largely agricultural area of Machrou al-Hadhba about 30 kilometres (18 miles) south of the Tripoli city centre.

**Nazi bombing**

**UK's Big Ben tower more badly damaged by Nazi bombs than thought**

Reuters | London

Britain's Big Ben tower at the Houses of Parliament was more badly damaged by German bombs during World War Two than originally thought, experts said yesterday, as the bill for its restoration rose by 18.6 million pounds (\$24 million).

The 177-year-old tower has been swathed in scaffolding for the past three years as craftsmen refurbish its stonework and famous 12-tonne clock.

Being able to get close to the 315-foot (96m) tower has allowed them to spot other problems like damage caused by pollution and asbestos.



The Elizabeth Tower, housing the Big Ben bell, is seen clad in scaffolding, over the Houses of Parliament, in central London

The House of Commons and House of Lords Commissions said they had been told that to restore the tower to its previous

splendour, the budget would need to rise from 61.1 million to 79.7 million pounds.

Ian Ailles, Director General

**79.7m**  
is the now estimated cost of repair

of the House of Commons, said the task of restoring the tower had been more complex than anticipated.

"Alongside other issues, such as the impact of often inappropriate conservation methods used by our predecessors, the corrosive levels of pollution in

the atmosphere and the discovery of asbestos in unexpected places, we have only now been able to fully understand the full investment required for this project," he said in a statement.

Among other problems, bomb damage inflicted on the tower during the war had been found to be more extensive than first thought.

Although the tower survived Nazi bombing, its roof and dials were damaged in a May 1941 air raid which destroyed the main House of Commons chamber.

The latest refurbishment of the structure, during which its 13-tonne Big Ben bell has been largely silenced, is expected to be finished next year.



- 03** Future food security
- 04** Billion dollar sanction busting scheme
- 08** Alba reports profit

210 fils (includes VAT)

