

Balestra triumphs in main race at REHC

Balestra lifted the Irish Thoroughbred Marketing Cup yesterday after winning the day's main race at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC) in Riffa. **P12**

Amazon wins suspension of \$10 bn 'JEDI' contract to Microsoft

THE DAILY tribune

Katy Perry not inviting 'American Idol' co-judges to wedding

Mother 'reunites' with dead daughter in VR show

Defence spending rise
 Washington, DC

Global spending on defence rose by four per cent in 2019, the largest growth in 10 years, a study said yesterday.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) released figures from its survey of military capabilities at the Munich Security Conference. The big drivers were the United States and China with both increasing spending by 6.6 per cent.

Beijing's military modernisation programme - which includes developing new hard-to-detect hypersonic missiles - is alarming Washington and helping drive US defence spending, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said.

First case of Corona in Egypt
 Cairo

Egypt's Health Ministry has confirmed the first case of the new virus in the North African country.

In a statement issued yesterday, Health Ministry spokesman Khaled Mugahed said the person was a "foreigner" who is carrying the virus but not showing any serious symptoms.

Officials were able to confirm the case through a follow-up program the government implemented for travellers arriving from countries where the virus has spread. The ministry statement said the person was hospitalised and in isolation.



02 Hamad Town service centre's gold classification highlighted

03 Kingdom 'supporting China' to solve face mask shortage

04 Bahraini food firms to showcase their latest products at Gulfod

210 fils (includes VAT)



Marking a milestone

'Glorious historic day, an opportunity to recall patriotic stances of Bahraini citizens'



His Majesty along HRH the Crown Prince offers prayers at Al Sakhir Palace's mosque.



His Majesty, HRH the Crown Prince and other Royal Family members at the event.



His Majesty and HRH the Crown Prince along with Royal Family members and senior government officials arrive for the event marking NAC anniversary.

● **The King underlined the importance of adherence to the essence and principles of the National Action Charter.**

● **His Majesty affirmed that Bahraini citizens will always remain the primary focus of the development march.**

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, senior Royal Family members on the 19th Anniversary of the National Action Charter.

Senior Royal Family members extended to HM the King deepest congratulations on the glorious occasion, expressing utmost pride in the landmark achievements attained by the kingdom in all fields and the distinguished position it has reached at the international level thanks to HM King Hamad's leadership.

They praised the tremendous efforts exerted by HM the King to enhance Bahrain's relations with brotherly and friendly countries, as well as to promote its honourable stances at global gatherings and strengthen its leading role at the Arab and international levels.

They prayed to Allah the Almighty to guide HM the King on the right path, and to bless him with abundant health and happiness to continue leading the progress march witnessed by the kingdom during his prosperous era.

HM the King welcomed senior Royal Family members, and exchanged with them congrat-

“**The adoption of the National Action Charter paved the way for embarking on a promising march of building the Kingdom's institutions and constitutional branches.**”

HIS MAJESTY

ulations on the dear national occasion, expressing thanks and appreciation to them for their noble patriotic feelings and supplications.

HM King Hamad said that the glorious historic day is an opportunity to recall with pride the patriotic stances of the beloved Bahraini people on the referendum day, noting that the adoption of the National Action Charter paved the way for embarking on a promising march of building the Kingdom's institutions and con-

stitutional branches, in line with the aspirations of the Bahraini citizens whose unprecedented consensus, HM the King said, embodied the all-inclusive Bahraini identity that seeks development and civilisational progress.

HM the King underlined the importance of adherence to the essence and principles of the National Action Charter by preserving what has been achieved so far, and carrying on dedicated efforts to build on hard-won national gains and increase them.

HM the King stressed the importance of continuous and constructive co-operation between the Executive and Legislative branches, expressing appreciation for the members of the two branches for their constant keenness to place the interests of the nation and the citizens at top of their priorities.

In this regard, HM the King lauded the achievements of the bicameral National Assembly, and its success in playing the role

assigned to it to the fullest.

HM King Hamad affirmed that the Bahraini citizens will always remain the focus of the development march and its ultimate goal, expressing pride in the solidarity among all Bahraini citizens, as well as their cohesion and unified stances, citing the tireless efforts of Bahraini competencies to enrich the national march and increase the Kingdom's pioneering achievements at various gatherings.

HM the King affirmed the kingdom's steadfast determination to continue enhancing its progress march to further strengthen its status among developed countries and meet its citizens' aspiration for more progress and prosperity.

HM King Hamad performed Friday Prayers at Al Sakhir Palace's mosque.

HM the King also hosted a lunch banquet in honour of those present marking the glorious national occasion.

TACKLING TERROR

US Navy intercepts 'Iranian weapons' bound for Houthis

TDI | Manama

The US Navy has intercepted a shipment of Iranian-made and designed weapons bound for the Houthi rebels in Yemen, the US Central Command announced on Thursday.

Centcom said the operation occurred on Sunday.

The USS Normandy, while conducting maritime security operations in the Arabian Sea, "boarded a dhow vessel in accordance with

international law and discovered a large cache of weapons".

It said the weapons seized included "150 Dehlahieh anti-tank guided missiles" and "other weapons components seized aboard the dhow were of Iranian design and manufacture".

They included "Iranian surface-to-air missiles, Iranian thermal imaging weapon scopes, and Iranian components for unmanned aerial and surface vessels, as well as other munitions



An image of the vessel boarded by the US Navy which was discovered to be carrying a large cache of weapons.

and advanced weapons parts". The Yemeni military and in-

dependent observers have noted that the Houthis have been

more sophisticated and deadlier weapons in recent attacks. A report released by the data firm IHS Markit on Thursday said the rebels were increasingly relying on drones to carry out attacks after a marked improvement in their unmanned aerial vehicle technology.

"No other known non-state armed group across the Mena region and beyond has demonstrated the same level of UAV technological sophistication," the company said in a report.