

# Sinai blast condemned

Bahrain stresses its firm position that rejects all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism

TDT | Manama

Bahrain yesterday condemned the terrorist attack that targeted a security checkpoint in North Sinai, Egypt, which resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a number of security officers.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its sincere condolences to the families of the victims and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

The ministry affirmed its sol-

idarity and support to all measures taken by Egypt to preserve its security and stability.

It stressed the Kingdom's firm position that rejects all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism and called for concerted international efforts to end terrorism and cut its sources of funding.

Fifteen Egyptian military personnel were killed or wounded in a clash in North Sinai in which seven militants were also killed, the Egyptian



military said. The Islamic State later

claimed responsibility for the attack on its news agency AMAQ.

It said it killed at least 15 Egyptian troops, revising an earlier figure of 20 killed south of the provincial capital of Arish after clashes with "various kinds of weapons".

The group did not provide evidence for its claim. Security forces launched a campaign a year ago against Islamist militants focused on Egypt's Sinai peninsula, and said they have

killed several hundred militants since then.

"Combing operations and the pursuit and elimination of the terrorist elements in the area where the incident took place is ongoing," the military spokesman said in a statement.

The security sources said operations were taking place under aerial cover. Since 2013, Islamist militants have repeatedly targeted security checkpoints and Egypt's Christian minority.

## Folk Poetry Festival second edition held

● **Shaikh Mohammed** welcomed the local and regional poets participating in the event, noting their contribution to the event's success.

Manama

Under the patronage of Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Folk Poetry Society (FPS) held the second edition of the Folk Poetry Festival, to mark the 18th anniversary of the National Action Charter (NAC), at the Four Seasons Hotel, Bahrain Bay.

During the event, Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman highlighted that the National Action Charter represents a significant milestone in the Kingdom's modern history.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman further highlighted that the endorsement of the Kingdom's NAC by a 98.4 per cent majority vote, reflects the consensus of all Bahrainis on the importance of development, social unity and a brighter future for all.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman noted the importance of further building on the Kingdom's successful achievements under its comprehensive development programme, led by His Majesty King Hamad.

Shaikh Mohammed thanked the FPS for organising the festival, and noted the Society's commitment to preserving Bahrain's rich cultural heritage and national identity.

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## GCC technical education strategy discussed

Muscat

A meeting of the working group for preparation of the strategic plan for co-operation in the field of technical education and vocational training in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which was formed by the GCC Committee for Technical Education and Vocational Training Officials (GCC-CTEVTO) was held in Oman.

The meeting discussed a number of topics related to technical education and vocational training in the GCC countries, including: the strategic plan of GCC-CTEVTO, the strategic plan and the performance indicators of the plan.

The meeting also discussed the regulations of GCC-CTEVTO, Oman News Agency (ONA) reported.

## Bahrain attends Munich Security Conference

● **The MSC is one of the most important international security conferences, which aim at enhancing co-operation and communication between all countries to face the security challenges facing the world.**

Munich

The Ambassador of the Kingdom, Abdulla Abdulatif Abdullah, chaired the Kingdom's delegation participating in the 55th Munich Security Conference (MSC), held in Munich from February 15 to 17, with the participation of a number of heads of states and governments as well as foreign and defence ministers from around the world. The Chairman of the MSC, Wolf-



Mr Abdullah at the conference.

gang Ischinger delivered a speech in which he called for political solutions to all disputes whether inside or outside Europe, warning against the increase of organised crime and armament.

President of the Arab Repub-

lic of Egypt and Chairperson of the African Union, Abdel Fatah Al Sisi, President of the Republic of Romania, Klaus Iohannis, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Angela Merkel and the Vice President of the United States of America, Mike Pence, also de-

livered speeches at the conference.

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## AI academy to be set up

TDT | Manama

Bahrain-based renowned businessman and the Chairman of VKL Holdings and Al Namal Group of Companies, Dr Varghese Kurian, has revealed plans to set up a Robotic and Artificial Intelligence Academy in the Indian state of Kerala.

This came as Dr Kurian attended the Loka Kerala Sabha meeting held in Dubai.

A seminar on the labour sec-



Dr Kurian

tor and labour market was held as part of the meeting.

## Labour market strides discussed

Manama

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan met with Board Chairman of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa.

They discussed co-operation to boost employment of national competencies in the private sector, in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince

Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

Both sides underlined the importance of investing in Bahraini human resources, being the pillar of comprehensive development and one of the main factors to lure foreign investments.

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