

## Strike killed Mr. Ahmadi



US Marine Corps Gen. Frank McKenzie, the commander of U.S. Central Command, arrives at Hamid Karzai International Airport, in Kabul, Afghanistan

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In a statement, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said the drone strike had killed a Mr. Ahmadi who worked for a non-profit called Nutrition and Education International.

"We now know that there was no connection between Mr. Ahmadi and ISIS-Khorasan, that his activities on that day were completely harmless and not at all related to the imminent threat we believed we faced," Austin said in the statement.

"We apologise, and we will endeavour to learn from this horrible mistake."

The mistaken strike came as the US military was on heightened alert. Officials warned they expected more attacks on the airport, including rockets and vehicle-borne explosive devices, as the Pentagon wrapped up its mission.

General Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared to blame the fog of war, even as he acknowledged in a statement that the civilian deaths were "heart-wrenching".

"In a dynamic high threat environment, the commanders on the ground had the appropriate authority and had reasonable certainty that the target was valid," Milley said.

"The authority to carry out strikes in Afghanistan -- against al Qaeda or Islamic State -- will not rest anymore with US commanders in the region," a US defence official said. Austin himself will have to authorise any future strikes.

Still, the intelligence failure exposed in America's last military strike of its war in Afghanistan raises questions about the risks going forward. These include whether the United States can keep track of al Qaeda and Islamic State threats and act quickly on any information it gets.

McKenzie played down the impact the latest civilian casualties would have on future actions in Afghanistan.

"I don't think you should draw any conclusions about our ability to strike in Afghanistan against ISIS-K targets in the future based on this particular strike," he said.

# Use social media to boost the progress of the Kingdom, says HH Shaikh Khalid

Shaikh Khalid meets Information Minister, "Your Talent at Home" jury

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HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday hailed national media for its support to Bahrain's youth development initiatives, as he described social media platforms as "weapons that must be used to serve Bahrain's progress march."

The First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS) and the Chairman of the General Sports Authority and the President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee also called the media an essential partner in Bahrain's youth development drive.

Media support for youth development initiatives, HH Shaikh Khalid said, is boosting the reputation of Bahrain at the regional and international levels.

HH Shaikh Khalid said this while meeting Ali bin Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, the Information Minister, and the jury of the "Your Talent at Home" com-



Shaikh Khalid holding a meeting with Information minister and jury of "Your Talent at Home" programme

petition.

The support provided by the Information ministry for youth movement initiatives, Shaikh Khalid highlighted, has contributed to a great extent in highlighting the truthful image of Bahrain. HH Shaikh Khalid also thanked His Majesty King

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for boosting Bahraini youth.

Information Minister Al-Rumaihi said the initiatives of Shaikh Khalid is creating opportunities for Bahraini youth to

thrive and grow their creativity in various fields.

The minister also reaffirmed interest in promoting events and competitions enriching the youth movement and expressed pride in the potentials of the "Your Talent at Home" competition.

The programme in two categories, for above 16 and below 15, has competition covering acting, singing, shows, magic, strumming, painting and acrobatics. HH Shaikh Khalid had ordered to allocate prizes worth more than \$60,000 for the winners.

## Parliamentarians condemn Qatar's discriminatory election rules

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Two parliamentary committees yesterday voiced deep concerns over the discriminatory practices followed by Qatar in its first-ever legislative polls.

Dr Mubarka Al Merri has applied to run in the elections in the 16th constituency but now stands excluded without any reason.

Dr Al Merri is also not allowed to challenge the arbitrary decision to bar her from the polls.

In a joint statement, Human

Rights, Women and Childhood Committees condemned the exclusion, stressing the necessity to allow all citizens - men and women - to exercise their political rights through free and honest elections and challenge such decisions before the judiciary.

They underlined the importance for Qatari women to exercise their political rights without any discrimination or violation of the principle of equality before the law.

"Qatari laws allow native citizens the right to run for and

vote in elections. It also allows some naturalised citizens the right to vote. However, denies all those to other naturalised Qataris," the statement added.

The committees condemned it as discriminatory measures and a blatant violation of the inalienable right of citizens to exercise their political rights.

"Parliaments represent the sovereignty and will of the people", the statement said.

It also reminds Qatar that it is obligated to guarantee these rights to all within its territory without discrimination.



Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah, the Ambassador of Bahrain to the Czech Republic residing in Berlin, participated in a ceremony organised by the Bahraini-Czech Parliamentary Friendship Group held in his honour in Prague. The meeting had the presence of Petr Bendl, the Chairman of the Bahraini-Czech Parliamentary Friendship Group and Peter Zadovsky, the President of the Czech Chamber of Commerce for the Gulf States. Ambassador Abdullah Abdullatif Abdullah stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between the legislative branch and the business sector in both countries.



The Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva, Ambassador Dr Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri, and the Minister Plenipotentiary in the mission, Hassan Musa Shafi'i, met at the headquarters of the Permanent Mission, the Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, Christian Salazar Volkman. The meeting was in the presence of the Chief of the Middle East and North Africa Section, Mohammad Alnsour, on the occasion of the appointment of Christian Salazar at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Permanent Representative congratulated Christian Salazar on his new position and stressed the Kingdom's desire to enhance cooperation by providing technical assistance for promoting human rights.



Shaikh Nasser bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior, holding a meeting with Ali Ahmed Al-Dirazi, President of the National Institution for Human Rights, and members of the board of commissioners. They discussed the repercussions of the Royal Decree expanding the provisions of the Penal Code and Alternative Measures. The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior indicated that the Reform and Rehabilitation Center is open to institutions working in human rights.

The Dawoodi Bohra community joined hands with Bahrain Diving Volunteer Team in the OUR SEAS ARE CLEAN campaign to undertake Al Jarrim Island cleanup, marking World Cleanup Day. Dawood, the Project coordinator in Bahrain, said, "Being an archipelago of 33 islands, it is important to spread awareness about keeping our island and coastlines clean and waste-free." Fifteen volunteers took part in the campaign and picked up 40 bags of litter from Al Jarrim Island.



OUR SEAS ARE CLEAN campaign

