

**Raffii clinches double wins**

Raed Raffii powers to superb double in BIC 2,000cc Challenge second round | P 12

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THE DAILY **tribune**



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10 CELEBS



BUSINESS

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ADQ to invest US\$ 1 billion in LuLu

**HM the King receives Saudi cable**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received a cable from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, related to the close fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries, in addition to the Gulf affairs.

King Salman bin Abdulaziz assured HM the King that Saudi will continue promoting joint Gulf action and supporting Arab and Islamic causes.

Earlier, HM the King received a cable of congratulations from His Highness Shaikh Hamad bin Muhammad bin Salman Al Khalifa, on HM's patronage of the opening of the third session of the fifth legislative session.

HH Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed praised the contents of the royal speech, stressing that HM's directives of establishing a specialised hospital for infectious diseases embodies his continuous interest.

He praised the national efforts of Team Bahrain led by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and valued the royal decree of establishing the Hope Fund to support youth projects and initiatives led by His Majesty the King's Representative for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

**HRH Crown Prince thanked for honouring government agencies**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, was lauded by the Cabinet yesterday for recognising the top performing ministries and government

agencies within the National Suggestion and Complaint System 'Tawasul'.

During the virtual regular weekly Cabinet session yesterday, the Cabinet extended congratulations to the awardees, noting that the move reflects the government's interest in improving the performance of

its agencies in serving the citizens and meeting the expectations of the clients.

It will also motivate them to be more distinct in delivering the best services, a post statement by Cabinet secretary-general Dr Yasser bin Isa Al Nasser said.



HRH the Crown Prince



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**Bahrain-Israel agreements to boost regional peace, stability**

Kingdom welcomes 45% decrease in daily COVID active cases

TDT | Manama

The Cabinet has approved the agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs) signed on Sunday between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Israel on the establishment of diplomatic relations between them.

The US-brokered agreement capped a one-day visit by a high-level delegation of American and Israeli officials to Bahrain. The diplomatic breakthrough clears the way for both countries to open embassies and exchange ambassadors in the coming months.

Also approved during yesterday's regular weekly Cabinet session, held remotely, and chaired by Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, was the co-operation agreements between their Foreign Affairs and Finance ministries, in addition to trade, economy, air services, agriculture, infor-



Deputy Prime Minister chairs virtual Cabinet session

mation and telecommunications and post.

Through a memorandum presented by the Foreign Affairs Minister, the session was informed on the talks held with the joint US-Israeli delegation to discuss areas of co-operation between Bahrain, US and Israel.

The Cabinet noted that the agreements and memoranda of understanding are based on the vision of the Kingdom, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, to promote peace and stability in the Middle East.

They are also aimed at promoting tolerance, coexistence and openness to religions and

cultures and enhancing efforts to resolve the Palestinian issue in accordance with the two-state solution, international legitimacy resolutions, and the Arab Peace Initiative, the Cabinet said. The session also welcomed the 45% decrease in daily active cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Kingdom during four weeks, noting that it reflects the commitment of the society and the citizens' awareness of the scale of their responsibility to help solve the problem.

The Cabinet urged more commitment and awareness until the virus is eradicated, praising the tireless efforts made by the medical staff and the teams sup-

porting them in this regard.

The session lauded the keenness of His Majesty the King and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud to bolster the two sisterly kingdoms' relations and intensify joint co-operation and coordination on issues of mutual interest.

In this regard, the Cabinet endorsed the amended protocol of the minutes of the establishment of the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council, signed between the two countries on 28/7/2019 to raise the level of the chairmanship of the Council to the level of the Crown Princes of the two countries, as outlined in the

**YOU KNOW WHAT**

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memorandum submitted by the Foreign Affairs Minister.

Marking the United Nations Day, the Cabinet praised the role played by the United Nations in promoting peace and safeguarding global security through its initiatives and efforts in the fields of development and service to humanity, stressing the Kingdom's keenness to support its noble efforts and co-operate with its agencies and bodies to achieve its humanitarian goals.

**Biometric check**

**Singapore's world-first face scan plan sparks privacy fears**

AFP | Singapore

Singapore will become the world's first country to use facial verification in its national ID scheme, but privacy advocates are alarmed by what they say is an intrusive system vulnerable to abuse.

From next year, millions of people living in the city-state will be able to access government agencies, banking services and other amenities with a quick face scan.

This biometric check will do away with the need to remember a password or security dangle when performing many everyday tasks, its creators say.

It is part of the financial hub's drive to harness technology,



Facial verification technology

from ramping up the use of electronic payments to research on driverless transport.

"We want to be innovative in applying technology for the benefit of our citizens and businesses," Kwok Quek Sin, who works on digital identification

at Singapore's technology agency GovTech said.

Facial verification has already been adopted in various forms around the world, with Apple and Google implementing the technology for tasks like unlocking phones and making

payments. Governments have also deployed it at airports for security checks on travellers.

But Singapore's rollout is one of the most ambitious yet, and the first to attach facial verification to a national identification database.

The technology captures a series of photos of a person's face in various lights.

These images are matched with other data already available to the government such as national identity cards, passports and employment passes.

Safeguards ensure the process is secure, said Lee Sea Lin of digital consultancy Toppan Ecquaria, which is working with GovTech to implement the technology.

**Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat 'critical' from COVID**

AFP | Jerusalem

Long-time chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat was in "critical" condition and in a medically induced coma yesterday, said the Israeli hospital in Jerusalem treating him for coronavirus (COVID-19) complications. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) said on Sunday that Erekat had been admitted to Hadassah Ein Kerem hospital's coronavirus intensive care unit due to "chronic health problems in the respiratory system".

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

- TOTAL CASES: 78,546
- ACTIVE CASES: 3,239
- DEATHS: 302
- DISCHARGED: 74,683
- NEW CASES: 322
- CRITICAL: 35

210 fils (includes VAT)



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