

**Happy Craff lifts Al Jasra Cup**

Jockey Edinson Rodriguez saddles five-year-old contender to victory for M and E Racing and AM Smith, to win sixth £50,000 race in prestigious Bahrain Turf Series at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club | P12

WORLD 6 Massive explosion rocks town in Ghana

THE DAILY **tribune**



Rupert Grint compares JK Rowling to 'aunt I don't agree with'

10 CELEB

BUSINESS 5 UAE bourses end higher on financial, telecom boost

**HM King condoles with Brazilian President**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday sent a cable of condolences to the Brazilian President, Jair Bolsonaro, over the passing of his mother.

HM the King extended deepest condolences to President Bolsonaro, the family of the deceased and the Brazilian people.

**US imposes more sanctions on Hezbollah-linked Lebanese individuals**

Reuters | Washington

The United States yesterday imposed sanctions on three Lebanese nationals and 10 companies it said were part of an international Hezbollah network, accusing them of evading sanctions on the armed militia that is designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation by Washington.

The US Treasury designated Adnan Ayad, a Hezbollah member and businessman, as well as other members of an international network of facilitators and companies connected to him and his business partner, Adel Diab.

"Treasury is committed to disrupting Hizballah's illicit activity and attempts to evade sanctions through business networks while the group doubles down on corrupt patronage networks in Lebanon," Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian Nelson said.

**BAHRAIN COVID-19**

TOTAL TESTED

8524804

ACTIVE CASES

27106

DEATHS

1398

DISCHARGED

295800

NEW CASES

3616

CRITICAL

12

220 fils (includes VAT)



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**Rare snow, hailstorms blanket cities of Saudi Arabia**

TDT | Manama

Saudi Arabia is experiencing an unprecedented sharp drop in temperatures, with rare snowfalls and hailstorms blanketing six cities on the north side of the country.

Temperatures have hit minus 3 degrees in some places.

The weather is expected to intensify further in the coming weeks, with Saudi Arabia's National Center of Meteorology predicting the mercury to further dip in the capital Riyadh.

Weather reports say Arctic air masses from Siberia is transforming landscapes in and around Saudi Arabia.

Hussain Al-Qahtani, a spokesman for the Meteorolog-



ical Center, said there will be a "sharp drop in temperatures at the end of the week in the northern and central regions." Riyadh is expected to record between one and three degrees below zero."

The city of Turaif at the border with Jordan recorded yesterday minus 3 degrees and Qurayyat two degrees below zero.

Earlier this month, Saudi photographer Osama Al-Habri captured aerial images of Badr Governorate, southwest of Medina, dressed in white as locals gathered to enjoy the unusual sight.

On Wednesday, the city of Turaif recorded six degrees below zero, which is the lowest in 30 years.

**'Cowardly' attack**

Bahrain strongly condemns IS attack on Iraqi military base

● Attack claimed the lives of 11 Iraqi soldiers

● IS also tried to attack a prison in Hasaka, Syria

TDT | Agencies

Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned the deadly attacks by the Islamic State militants on the Iraqi military headquarters in Diyala, which claimed the lives of 11 Iraqi soldiers.

The attacks, the foreign ministry said, are "cowardly" and "contravene all international laws."

The international community should come forward to "condemn these heinous terrorist acts," the statement said, also affirming solidarity with the Iraqi government in the measures it takes to maintain security and stability.



**The international community should condemn these heinous terrorist acts that contravene all international laws**

BAHRAIN FOREIGN MINISTRY

Bahrain expressed deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims' families and brothers-Iraqi people. Iraqi Defence Minister Jou-

ma Anad, in a tweet, confirmed the attack.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack on its affiliated Telegram channels.

Meanwhile, Kurdish-led forces in Syria killed 23 Islamic State militants, including foreigners, in clashes after the jihadist group attacked a prison in the northeastern city of Hasaka on Thursday, a military source in the Kurdish-led forces said.

The SDF military source said the attack on the prison coincided with Islamic State attacks in Iraq and what he described as movements by the militant group in the eastern Syrian province of Deir al-Zor.

"Islamic State is trying to impose its control on the area and to revive its organisation once again," the source said.

"Seven members of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and an allied security force called the Asayish were killed in the attack," the SDF military source said yesterday.

**As rain retreats, dust storms Bahrian**



P2

**Coalition investigating reports of airstrike hitting Yemen prison**

TDT | agencies

Coalition forces fighting the Iran-aligned Houthi militia in Yemen yesterday said they are investigating reports that airstrikes hit a temporary detention centre in Sada.

"We take this report very seriously and it will be fully investigated as all reports of this nature are, using an in-

ternationally approved, independent process. Whilst this is ongoing, it would be inappropriate to comment further," said coalition spokesman Brigadier-General Turki al-Malki. Houthi-run Al Masirah television channel said tens of people had been killed and injured in Saada. (See page 4)

Post-Brexit strategy

**Britain's Prince William to visit UAE next month**

TDT | agencies

Queen Elizabeth's grandson Prince William will visit the United Arab Emirates next month, his office Kensington Palace announced yesterday, as Britain seeks to step up its relationship with the Gulf state.

William, the Duke of Cambridge, will visit Dubai on Feb. 10, with his trip coming as the UAE marks its 50th year and coinciding with UK National Day being held at Expo 2020 Dubai, his office said.



Britain has been looking to the Gulf countries for trade deals as part of its post-Brexit strategy

"The bond between the UK and the UAE is deep and strong and Prince William's visit will highlight and build upon these links as he has the opportunity to engage with young Emiratis, leaders from government and committed conservationists," Kensington Palace said in a statement.

Britain has been looking to the Gulf countries for trade deals as part of its post-Brexit strategy to build new ties around the world.

In September, UAE pledged to invest 10 billion pounds in British clean energy, infrastructure,

technology and life sciences, expanding its "sovereign investment partnership" with the UK government.

10

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