



Brad Pitt says he's on 'last leg' of acting career

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BUSINESS **5** Bahrain, Japan to boost trade ties

HM King hails 'outstanding valour' of BDF members

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, yesterday hailed the outstanding valour and courage displayed by the Bahrain Defence Force in all tasks entrusted to them.

"BDF task force members are always up to the responsibility and merit trust and appreciation," said HM King during a visit yesterday to the General Command of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF).

His Majesty was welcomed upon arrival by the Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa visiting the Command of Bahrain Defence Force



Isa Al Khalifa lauded the success achieved in the previous training season and the imminent start of preparations for the next training season according to advanced plans to continue boosting competencies and capabilities.

The Supreme Commander praised the steady advances in the practical and theoretical training of the BDF and congratulated the graduates, from Bahrain and other countries, of the 14th joint command and staff course at the BDF.

HM King Hamad wished the valiant affiliates of the BDF success in their various positions in Bahrain and abroad.

Abu Dhabi, Dubai named most liveable in MENA

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Abu Dhabi and Dubai are named the most liveable cities in the Middle East and North Africa for the fifth year in a row,

The list, compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit's global survey, ranked 173 cities on stability, culture and environment, education and infrastructure, and health care.

Abu Dhabi pipped Dubai to the post of best city in which to live in the Middle East, with the two ranked 77th and 79th, respectively.

Melbourne scores highly in all of the EIU's criteria and achieves perfect scores in the areas of healthcare, education and infrastructure. The EIU's Liveability Ranking assesses living conditions in 140 cities around the world. (See page 9)

Citizens focus of development: HRH Prince Salman

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's vision, which puts the development of citizens at its core, lays the path for Team Bahrain, said His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

In this regard, HRH highlighted the importance of cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities and hailed it as a model for teamwork and Kingdom's continued development.

HRH Prince Salman was meeting Fawzia bint Abdullah Zain-



His Royal Highness Prince Salman with Speaker Zainal and minister Shaikh Salman

al, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in the presence of Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, at Gu-

daiiya Palace.

Expressing thanks and appreciation to the executive and legis-

term.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman also praised the pivotal role of the house of Representatives in strengthening Bahrain's ties with countries around the world. Zainal stressed the value of joint efforts in achieving the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals, led by His Majesty the King.

HRH Prince Salman, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, said he is looking forward to achieving everything that contributes to the development and advancement of the Kingdom and its citizens.

Bahrain aims a big jump in cloud, FDI

EDB in talks for insurance cloud computing, FDI deals with US, China and UAE

- Aims to grow non-oil GDP by 5% this year
- Also in talks with sugar refinery, consultancy firms

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Bahrain is in advanced talks for investment deals with cloud computing companies from the United States, China and the United Arab Emirates.

A Reuters report quoting a Bahrain Economic Development Board executive said the

move forms part of the country's bid to diversify its oil-based economy. Cloud computing and foreign direct investment are key planks of Bahrain's economic recovery programme that aims to grow non-oil gross domestic product by 5% this year and includes \$30 billion in strategic projects.

Bahrain, which since 2018 has hosted a large AWS centre - the first in the Middle East, has introduced a "data embassy law", the first of its kind in the region.

It allows countries to store data in the country but under their jurisdiction, Ali AlMudaifa, chief investment officer of Bahrain's Economic Development Board, said.



(Continued on page 5)

Iran replaces chief of Guards' intelligence unit - state TV

Reuters

Iran has dismissed chief of the Revolutionary Guards' intelligence unit, Hossein Taeb, Iranian state TV said yesterday, after a series of high-profile incidents Tehran has blamed on Israel.

Iranian state media did not give a reason but state TV said Taeb would become an adviser to the Guards' Commander-in-Chief Hossein Salami. Taeb will be replaced by Mohammad Kazemi, previously head of the Guards' Intelligence Protection unit.

Taeb, a mid-ranking cleric and a member of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's inner circle, was accused by some Israeli media of being behind an alleged Iranian plot to kill or abduct Israelis vacationing in Turkey. Israel raised its Istanbul travel advisory to the highest alert level on June 13.

