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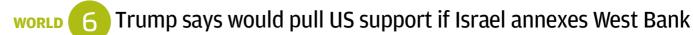
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220 FILS

**China leads charge** as Bahrain Youth **Games enter** fourth day

**Asian Youth Games** thrill as China, Thailand, Malaysia, Iraq excel. | P12





"Our Presence and Existence Is Our Resistance," Says Palestine

Bahrain Pavilion at GITEX Global concludes with local and international partnerships

## **Bahrain and Turkmenistan** review relations

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, held a telephone call with Rashid Meredov, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

Both sides reviewed the close relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Turkmenistan, which is founded on mutual respect and a shared commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation and coordination across various domains.

They also discussed means to further expand these relations to serve common interests. The call also touched on the latest regional developments and the current situation in the Middle East, as well as international efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region.

## Stage set for **Cityscape Bahrain** real estate show

TDT | Manama

 $T^{
m he\,third\,edition\,of\,City-}_{
m scape\,\,Bahrain\,\,will\,\,be}$ held on November 25-29 at the Exhibition World Bahrain in Sakhir.

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the event will showcase the most prominent real estate projects and promising opportunities in the residential and commercial sectors.

Alongside the exhibition, the fourth edition of the accompanying Dialogue Platform will be held from November 25-28 under the theme "Investment in the Kingdom of Bahrain," featuring a selection of speakers and industry leaders to discuss urban development, improving the quality of life, and consolidating Bahrain's position as a leading destination for investment in the real estate sector.

## **Platforms**

The event is organised by RERA and Informa Markets, continuing the great success achieved by previous editions and embodying its position as one of the most prominent real estate and investment platforms in the region.

220 fils (includes VAT)



# HM King attends wedding











His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, accompanied by his sons, attended the wedding of His Excellency Shaikh Khalifa bin Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, grandson of Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF). The ceremony was held at the Commander-in-Chief's majlis in Riffa. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed expressed gratitude to HM the King for attending the wedding of his grandson.

# Penalty reform

New Press Law amendments propose replacing jail terms for publishing offences with BD10,000 fine

### **Mohammed Darwish** TDT | Manama

Council on Sunday.

The draft would license professional electronic media and give existing outlets six months to comply.

penalties up to BD10,000.

correspondents would require ernment-run platforms. permission to work in Bahrain, by royal decree.

Courts could suspend newspapers or block websites at the scope. investigation stage where contional security or public order.

line, must carry official notices vised penalty scale. on sovereignty, defence, security or health if received in time for release.

certain material issued by for- Criminal Court.

eign governments, with breaches punishable by fines.

A wide clause that would rison terms for publish- have allowed the Minister of ing offences would be Information to license media scrapped under Press and advertising activity outside Law changes going to the Shura current laws was removed after MPs questioned its scope and checks.

## **Platforms**

The revised text defines 'elec-Fines would replace jail, with tronic media', 'electronic media platforms' and 'media and Professional online platforms advertising activity' to set the would need licences. Foreign law's reach, and exempts gov-

It also draws a line between with the arrangements to be set regular, professional media work and personal accounts, leaving the latter outside its

MPs passed the amendments tent is judged to threaten na- on 8 May. The bill was sent back to the Services Committee in ment's Services Committee, No. 34. October 2023 for redrafting, working with the Public Pros-Media outlets, in print and on- on ministerial powers and a re- Bahrain Journalists Association remarks.

## Jurisdiction

A proposal to move publish-The ministry, working with ing-offence cases entirely to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the civil courts was dropped; may direct outlets not to publish jurisdiction stays with the High



**Shura Council in session** 

says the draft balances freedom Articles 71, 78 and 85 in light of of opinion and expression with legal oversight.

It was prepared with Parlia-(BJA), and drew written input from MPs, journalists and social-media figures.

The National Institution for Human Rights supports the aims but asked the Shura Council to

The Ministry of Information revisit Parliament's wording for Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and General Comment Article 3, insert Articles 71 bis

which produced tighter limits ecution, newspapers and the on 27 July that it had no further

Al Watan urged that any change rest on Article 23 of the the profession.

## **Protections**

Al Ayam backed the bill and Parliament's changes, saying passage would strengthen legal protections for journalists, widen media freedoms and help Bahrain's standing in global press-freedom and media-transparency rankings.

Committee papers say the draft is sound in constitutional and legal terms.

It would retitle Decree-Law 47 of 2002 as the Decree-Law on the Regulation of the Press and Electronic Media, replace 'discipline' with 'accountability' in Chapter Five of Part Three, and substitute 'Kingdom' for 'State' in Articles 19, 25 and 90.

## **Provisions**

It would update a set of provisions, add new definitions to and 73 bis and a new paragraph The BJA told the committee in Article 90, and create a new Chapter Five bis on electronic media covering Articles 67 bis to 67 bis (9).

It would repeal Articles 70 Constitution, welcomed the re- and 72 and remove a cross-refmoval of jail terms and called for erence to Article 70 in Article clearer binding protections for 80. Existing electronic media sites would have six months to regularise their status once the law takes effect.