

## Labour Day and Eid Al-Fitr holidays set

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued a circular on the upcoming Labour Day and Eid Al-Fitr holidays.

According to the circular, ministries and all other public institutions will be close on 1 May, Sunday, marking Labour Day.

The circular also stipulates that the Kingdom's ministries and public institutions will be close on the day of Eid Al Fitr and the two days that follow.

If any of the three Eid days coincides with an official holiday, an extra day will be given in lieu, the circular added.

## Arab nations slam Israel over Al Aqsa violence

London

Arab nations criticised Israel during a heated meeting of the UN Security Council (UNSC) yesterday that focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Representatives of several Arab states spoke out against the actions of Israeli forces against Palestinians, especially violence over the weekend in East Jerusalem and at Al Aqsa Mosque.

Israel criticised the UNSC for ignoring the activities of Palestinian groups and the rising threat from Iran.

## HRH Prince Salman directs Civil Service Bureau to transfer annual leave surplus to COVID-19 heroes

### Cabinet extends congratulations to royal leadership and citizens on upcoming Eid Al-Fitr

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has directed the Civil Service Bureau to transfer the annual leave surplus to frontline health professionals and other support staff.

The bureau was also directed to transfer the excess annual leave for employees whose annual leave balance exceeded 75 days on 31 December 2021.

This came following the weekly Cabinet meeting chaired by HRH Prince Salman yesterday at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Cabinet extended its congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and the citizens of Bahrain on the occasion of the upcoming Eid Al-Fitr holiday.

To mark the coming Bahraini Press Day and World Press Freedom Day, the Cabinet wished media professionals and journalists success and highlighted the active role of media in supporting the Kingdom's national development.

For Labour Day, the Cabinet emphasised the dedication and contribution of the Kingdom's workforce to Bahrain's success-



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting



For Labour Day, the Cabinet emphasised the dedication and contribution of the Kingdom's workforce to Bahrain's successful achievements, which has increased their attractiveness to employers.

The Cabinet approved the following:

- ◆ A memorandum by the Civil Service Bureau regarding



restructuring and developing the work of several government agencies in order to increase efficiency and improve their performance.

- ◆ A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs and Fiscal Balance regarding the

Kingdom's contribution to several international organisations to enhance expertise in humanitarian, training, professional, and labour fields.

- ◆ A memorandum by the Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism on the inclusion of the Arab Republic of

Egypt to the 14 countries listed as partners for the air-sea freight service in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Companies based in these countries are allowed to apply for accreditation as operators of these services.

- ◆ A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on the government's response to 4 proposals and a law proposal submitted by the Council of Representatives.

The Cabinet also reviewed a memorandum by the Government Executive Committee on the updated Government Priority Framework 3.1 and what has been implemented to achieve financial sustainability and support the Kingdom's investment environment.

The Cabinet took note of a report submitted by the Minister of Finance and National Economy regarding his participation in the Spring Meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

## It's official: Elon Musk buys Twitter for \$44bln

Washington

Elon Musk reached an agreement to buy Twitter for roughly \$44 billion yesterday, promising a more lenient touch to policing content on the platform where he promotes his interests, attacks critics and opines on social and economic issues to more than 83 million followers.

The outspoken Tesla CEO, who is also the world's wealthiest person, has said he wanted to buy and privatise Twitter because he thinks it's not living up to its potential as a platform for free speech.

Musk said in a joint statement with Twitter that he wants to make the service "better than ever" with new features, such as getting rid of automated "spam bots" and making its algorithms open to the public to increase trust.

"Free speech is the bedrock



of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated," he said.

The deal was cemented roughly two weeks after the billionaire first revealed a 9% stake in the platform. Musk said last week that he had lined up \$46.5 billion in financing to buy Twitter, putting pressure on the company's board to negotiate a deal.

Twitter said the transaction was unanimously approved by its board of directors. The 11-member board includes Twitter co-founder and former CEO Jack Dorsey.

### The world mourns

## World's oldest person, Japanese Kane Tanaka, dies aged 119

Tokyo

Kane Tanaka, the world's oldest person, has died in Japan aged 119, according to a statement released by the country's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Tanaka, who was born Jan. 2, 1903, died April 19, the ministry said.

Guinness World Records said they were saddened to hear of Tanaka's passing, and said the news of her death had been confirmed by senior gerontology consultant Robert Young, who also helped confirm her record as the oldest person alive back in 2019.

Tweeting about her death,



Kane Tanaka

Born Jan. 2, 1903, Kane Tanaka was the second oldest person ever recorded.

Guinness World Records said: "She became the oldest living

person in January 2019 at the age of 116 years and 28 days.

"She is also the second oldest person ever recorded, behind only Jeanne Calment who lived to the age of 122."

Tanaka's family said in a tweet this month that she had been frequently sick recently and "in and out of hospital."

Born in 1903, Tanaka married a rice shop owner at the age of 19, and worked in the family store until she was 103.

She twice survived cancer and lived through a multitude of historical events, surviving two world wars and the 1918 Spanish flu — as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

### BAHRAIN COVID-19

#### TOTAL TESTED

9703058

#### ACTIVE CASES

3556

#### DEATHS

1475

#### DISCHARGED

561648

#### NEW CASES

407

#### CRITICAL

1

220 fils (includes VAT)



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