



Craig to earn 50 mn pounds for his role **17** SHOW

RAMADAN **16** Spiritual tunes in the air

Yemen deputy army chief survives attack
Aden

The deputy chief of Yemeni Army, Maj Gen Saleh Al Zindani, survived an attempt on his life in Aden, the Saudi Press Agency reported yesterday. The assassination attempt took place when Al Zindani was leaving a hospital in Aden last night. Yemeni Prime Minister Ahmed Obeid bin Daghr condemned the incident calling it a barbaric act that puts international security and stability in jeopardy. The incident is under investigation and no group has claimed the responsibility for the incident.



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa last night received scores of Muharraq citizens who congratulated him on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. His Majesty expressed appreciation of the national stances of Muharraq citizens, praising the pioneering efforts and contributions that have contributed to the development of the homeland.

\$32bn infra projects to boost growth

Manama

The Kingdom is implementing a \$32 billion infrastructure development programme as part of its long-term initiatives to boost growth, said the Crown Prince yesterday. This came as His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, visited the majlis of Khalifa

bin Ahmed Al Dhahrani, Abdullah bin Hamad Al Noaimi, Al Jishi and Al Khozaei families. He highlighted that, as the GCC's fastest growing economy, it is important that Bahrain maintains momentum, noting that the Kingdom's economic resilience is a consequence of diversification and fiscal consolidation measures that have yielded high rates of return across all non-oil activities.

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Russian soldiers killed in Daesh strike
Beirut

Russian fighters were among dozens of pro-regime forces killed in eastern Syria this week in a deadly wave of attacks by Daesh militants, Moscow and a monitor said yesterday. After its collapse last year, Daesh now only holds tiny pockets of Syria, mainly in the vast desert stretching to its eastern border. This week, the militants ramped up their hit-and-run attacks on regime positions there, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor. The deadliest was on Wednesday, when Daesh targeted a group of Syrian and allied Russian fighters near the town of Mayadeen in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor.

Metro bell rings

Manama to join the likes of Paris, London and Dubai with the building of an advanced Metro network

- The minister said that the project would be implemented in phases starting with a Metro line connecting Bahrain International Airport with different places in Manama.
- The transport ministers of the GCC member states have agreed upon completing the first phase linking Oman with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia by December 2021



Graphical illustration by Biju Haridas



Kamal Ahmed

ject will definitely change the social life scenario in Bahrain, especially for the youngsters. "I am sure many youngsters will use Metro trains, taking a break from motoring. We can solve the issue of traffic congestion once it is implemented."

Among other things, Mr Ahmed said the project will create hundreds of jobs in the Kingdom. "Hundreds of jobs will be created as the railway project will be one of the engines of growth in the Kingdom."

Meanwhile, the GCC rail project is progressing at a fast pace. The transport ministers of the GCC member states have agreed upon completing the first phase linking Oman with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia by December 2021, with Kuwait and Bahrain joining the network by December 2023. The project is estimated to cost \$15.4 billion.

TDI|Manama
Thamer Tayfoor

Bringing a revolutionary transformation to its public transport system, Bahrain is all set to get its Metro as the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications has begun preparations to implement one of the most ambitious projects the Kingdom has ever seen. Going by the initial plans, the Metro network will connect Bahrain International Airport in Muharraq with north of Manama, near the Diplomatic Area, Bahrain Bay, Bab Al Bahrain, Fi-

nancial Harbor and Seef.

In an exclusive interview with Tribune, Transportation and Telecommunication Minister Kamal Ahmed said the final plans would be ready by July before sending it to the ministerial council.

"Making engineering drawings for the project is a bit complicated affair and would take one complete year. Once the drawings are complete, we will start building the infrastructure with the help of private sector," he said.

The minister said that the project would be implemented

Making engineering drawings is a bit complicated affair and would take one complete year. Once the drawings are complete, we will start building the infrastructure with the help of private sector.

in phases starting with a Metro line connecting Bahrain International Airport with different places in Manama. "A link will connect Manama with Isa Town and Juffair."

Mr Ahmed said the first phase will cover 30km and the project

will go hand in hand with the GCC railway network project. "We will have common stations for GCC and Metro trains and the ministry hopes to obtain approvals before the new Government takes office."

The minister asserted the pro-



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