

**Dar Kulaib claim stunning victory over Al Ahli**

Dominant performance gives winners three-set sweep of fellow-title contenders in battle of titans in 2022/2023 Isa bin Rashid Bahrain Volleyball League | P12

# THE DAILY tribune

Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra debut daughter Malti at Walk of Fame ceremony **10** CELEBS

**BUSINESS 5** National Bank of Bahrain finances first plot in Al Msayyan Project under 'Mazaya 2.0'

**Iran court jails couple in viral dancing video**  
 Paris

An Iranian court has handed jail sentences of over 10 years each to a young couple who danced in front of one of Tehran's main landmarks in a video seen as a symbol of defiance against the regime, activists said yesterday.

Astiyazh Haghighi and her fiance Amir Mohammad Ahmadi, both in their early 20s, had been arrested in early November after a video went viral of them dancing romantically in front of the Azadi Tower in Tehran.

Haghighi did not wear a headscarf in defiance of the Islamic republic's strict rules for women, while women are also not allowed to dance in public in Iran, let alone with a man.

**Pope condemns 'poison of greed'**  
 Kinshasa

Pope Francis denounced the "poison of greed" for mineral resources driving conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo as he began a visit there yesterday, saying the rich world could no longer ignore the tragic plight of many African nations.

The 86-year-old Francis is the first pontiff to visit Congo since John Paul II in 1985, when it was still known as Zaire. About half of Congo's population of 90 million are Roman Catholics.

**Biden to meet King Abdullah**  
 Washington

US President Joe Biden will receive and hold talks with Jordan's King Abdullah at the White House tomorrow, the Jordanian embassy in Washington said yesterday.

"Talks will cover means to bolster the strategic partnership and ties of friendship between Jordan and the US through expanding cooperation across various sectors," Jordan's royal court said.

# Praise for ensuring Kingdom's 'safety'

HRH Prince Salman commends Bahrain Defence Force's efficiency and military capabilities

● **His Royal Highness briefed on BDF's development plans and programmes**

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister, commended the Bahrain Defence Force's efficiency and military capabilities, which reflect their dedication and role in safeguarding regional security alongside the Kingdom's allies.

HRH Prince Salman expressed pride in the officers of the BDF who continue to safeguard the Kingdom.

The Deputy Supreme Com-



HRH Prince Salman holds talks with Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed

mander of the Armed Forces was speaking as he visited yesterday the BDF General Command.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised the BDF's important role in advanc-

ing the Kingdom's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

His Royal Highness was briefed on the BDF's develop-

ment plans and programmes on combat and administrative readiness.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was received by the BDF Commander-in-Chief, HE Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin

“The BDF plays an important role in advancing the Kingdom's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.”

- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES AND PRIME MINISTER

Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Defence, HE Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, the BDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, and a number of senior BDF officers.



A warm welcome for His Royal Highness upon arrival at the BDF General Command

**Blinken wraps up Mideast visit**

## No breakthrough in bid to end Israel-Palestine clash

Ramallah

As he completed a two-day visit to Israel and the occupied West Bank yesterday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah and called for a de-escalation of tensions, but offered no new US initiative to help achieve this.

There were no signs he was making progress on even the modest goal of halting the latest wave of violence, much

less of addressing the broader issues surrounding potential peace talks.

Abbas placed all of the blame for the spike in violence on Israel and berated the international community for not doing more to put pressure on Israeli authorities.

Both Blinken and William Burns, the head of the CIA who met Abbas on Jan. 29, urged him to take action against Palestinian military groups and reduce the levels of violence against Israel.

Blinken called for calm on both sides



Palestinian President Abbas with US Secretary of State Blinken

following the incident last week when a Palestinian gunman killed seven people outside a synagogue in Jerusalem, and amid anger among Palestinians over the actions of Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank.

The US Secretary of State took that message into the meeting with Abbas and warned all parties against taking any action that could threaten a two-state solution that results in the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel.

