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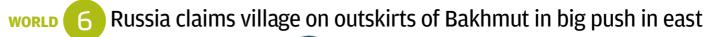
FACEBOOK



SPORTS

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





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

BUSINESS

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

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

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.

Astivazh 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

 ${f P}$ ope 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

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 Catho-

Biden to meet King Abdullah Washington

 $U_{
m will}^{
m s\ President\ Joe\ Biden}$ 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.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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

is 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 alongside the Kingdom's allies.

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

The Deputy Supreme Com- BDF's important role in advanc- briefed on the BDF's develop- Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin senior BDF officers.



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

Prime Minister emphasised the

terday the BDF General Com- Majesty King Hamad bin Isa readiness. Al Khalifa, the Supreme Com-

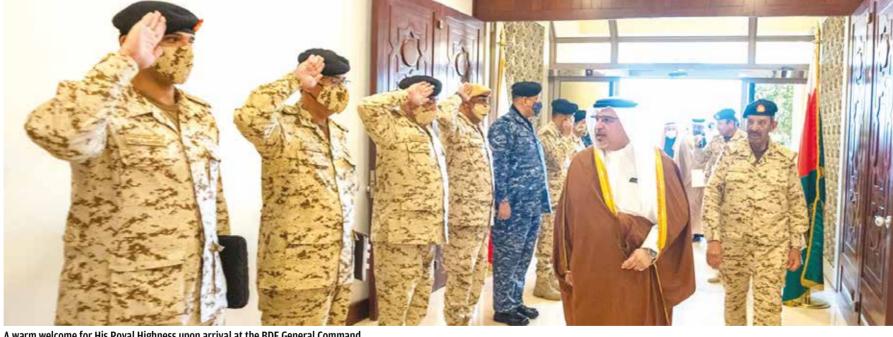
safeguarding regional security mander of the Armed Forces ing the Kingdom's comprehen- ment plans and programmes Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Miniswas speaking as he visited yes- sive development, led by His on combat and administrative ter of Defence, HE Lieutenant

> HRH the Crown Prince and mander of the Armed Forces. ness was received by the BDF Lieutenant-General Theyab bin His Royal Highness was Commander-in-Chief, HE Field Saqr Al Nuaimi, and a number of

"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 COMMAND-

General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Upon arrival, His Royal High- Nuaimi, the BDF Chief of Staff,



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

s he completed a two-day visit to Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah and called authorities. for a de-escalation of tensions, but of-

progress on even the modest goal of levels of violence against Israel. 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 As he completed a two-day visit to Assas places and of Strael and the occupied West Bank spike in violence on Israel and berated yesterday, US Secretary of State An- the international community for not tony Blinken met Palestinian President doing more to put pressure on Israeli

Both Blinken and William Burns, the fered no new US initiative to help achieve head of the CIA who met Abbas on Jan. 29, urged him to take action against Pal-There were no signs he was making estinian military groups and reduce the

Blinken called for calm on both sides State Blinken



Palestinian President Abbas with US Secretary of

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.