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TUESDAY MARCH, 2022 220 FILS **ISSUE NO.9127** 

**Karters shine** in tense sprint battles

SPORTS

Shaikh Ahmed bin Sager Al Khalifa, Khaled Al Najjar, Mohammed Wally and Lewis Smith win Rotax MAX classes in series' fourth round at BIKC | **P12** 





'CODA' takes top honours at SAG Awards, Will Smith wins

**BUSINESS** 

Bahrain "essential player" in trade, says Israeli Ambassador

## Kingdom to facilitate safe evacuation of **Bahrainis** in **Ukraine**

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is closely following up on the situation of Bahraini citizens present in Ukraine amid the current security conditions there.

The ministry said that with regard to its statement issued on February 12 urging Bahrainis to leave Ukraine, it stresses Bahrain's keenness to facilitate the necessary procedures for the safe evacuation of its citizens through the available ports as soon as possible.

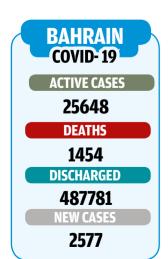
The ministry called upon the citizens wishing to leave Ukraine or seeking any assistance to call its Follow-up Office on 0097317227555.

## **Arab League** 'great concern'

The Arab League yesterday said it is following with "great concern" developments in Ukraine and "their serious military and humanitarian consequences."

The organisation, which held an emergency meeting yesterday at Egypt's request, said it supports "all efforts aimed at resolving the crisis through dialogue and diplomacy in a manner that preserves the security and safety of peoples in this important region of the world.'





220 fils (includes VAT)



# Bahrain, US keen to boost economic cooperation

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 $\mathbf{B}$  ahrain and the US are keen to explore opportunities for furthering economic and trade cooperation.

This was both emphasised by Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken as the second Strategic Dialogue between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the USA began virtually vesterday.

Dr Al Zayani delivered a speech in which he said the two sides are



building on the strong founda- Dr Al Zayani and Blinken at the online discussion

tions of their bilateral Free Trade respect, shared priorities. Agreement, noting that laying the foundation for the United States side, expressed his pride in the Trade Zone in Bahrain's Salman historical relations between the Industrial City is one example for Bahrain and the US. such cooperation.

Dr Al Zayani said the two 21st anniversary countries celebrated 50 years of formal diplomatic relations last year and with over a century of deep-rooted bilateral cooper- 21st anniversary of the desigation across a range of sectors, nation of Bahrain as a major He said that the partnership be- non-Nato ally of the US. tween Bahrain and the US is one of unique strategic attributes appreciates its partnership with and advantages, adding that it Bahrain in the field of maintaining

Blinken, who chaired the US

He noted that both countries will also celebrate this year the

He also underlined that the US is a partnership based on mutual security and stability in the region.

# Putin defiant!

Russia gives no hints of ceasefire as peace talks at Belarus border make only slender progress

More negotiations in pipeline but Moscow's invasion of Ukraine will continue

Major cities come under intense artillery fire overnight from Russian troops

**Agencies** 

**▼**ighting raged around key cities in Ukraine yesterday as its first critical rounds of talks with Russia since last week's invasion concluded with cious bombardment of civilians in so bluntly to Western allies. no immediate breakthrough.

Ukraine President Volodymyr focused on a possible ceasefire Russian media reported Pu-shelling. and that a second round could tin had not only repeated his take place "in the near future."



Residents of Severodonetsk, Donetsk region, look out from the basement where they hid during heavy shelling by Russian forces

the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

Meanwhile, Russian President over Ukraine – that the country countries since Russia launched Vladimir Putin refused to give should disarm and stay neutral its invasion five days earlier an inch in his demands from the outside NATO – but also insisted went for hours, and while they West vesterday and instead re- upon the formal recognition of brought some hope for an end sponded to Ukrainian resistance Crimea as Russian, an ultima- to the war, Ukraine's president

Even as Moscow said officials Putin himself gave no hints negotiating had "heard" each Zelenskyy's top adviser Mykhai- of any impending peace deal. other, Ukraine said Kharkiv, its lo Podolyak said the talks, held After a long call with French second-largest city, was coming near the Belarus border, were President Emmanuel Macron, under attack from heavy Russian

The talks – the first direct long-standing security demands negotiations between the two





Putin is not only demanding that Ukraine disarm and stay out of NATO, but also insisting on formal recognition of Crimea as Russian, an ultimatum he had not previously stated so and Western sanctions with a vi- tum he had not previously stated and residents in Kyiv made it bluntly to Western allies.

clear they expected little out of the discussion.

Russia would not clarify its aims for the talks, but sources reported that Ukraine's key demands were an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of all Russian troops.

Russian officials said the meeting had ended by early evening and that the respective delegations were heading back to their capitals to discuss the negotiations.

Ukraine's armed forces continued to hold off Russian troops, defending and retaining control of key cities, and slowing Russia's advance on Kyiv.

The Russian assault killed 11 people and wounded dozens, local authorities said.

(More reports on Page 6-7)

### Signature F1 entertainment

## World-class roaming acts to enliven Gulf Air Bahrain GP

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vide vibrant, festival-like at- three-day race weekend. mosphere that can be enjoyed

the Middle East" spares no ef- faces. fort each year in putting togethwide variety of roaming er a fantastic programme of fun artists includes Abraham Thill, A wide variety of roaming er a failussuc programme of full across family entertainment for all to Aras Stilt Band, the Joker group, F1 rules and regulations. the globe will once again pro- look forward to throughout the Colour Dancers, Dr Bubbles,

These colourful characters off the track at Bahrain Inter- who will be seen around BIC's F1 during the Formula 1 Gulf Air dancers and musicians, clowns Bahrain Grand Prix from 18 to and magicians, and many more Prix. kinds of charming acts that will

The roster of much-beloved Funky Style Band and Jam Batu-

national Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir Village vending area — include await all those attending this pionship and the Porsche Sprint available online at bahraingp. vear's F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Challenge Middle East.

ushers in "A New Era" in F1 fol- the back-to-back concerts on the lowing the biggest shake-up in Friday night of the race week-

There will also be loads of racing, as F1 will be joined by the FIA Formula 2 Champion-All this and so much more ship, the FIA Formula 3 Cham-

To add to the roaming per- at +973-17450000. The event is set to be an formers off the track, BIC's "The Home of Motorsport in surely put smiles on everyone's historic, once-in-a-generation spectacular entertainment pro-

occasion for motorsport, as it gramme will be highlighted by end, 18 March, when globally renowned DJs Don Diablo and Afrojack will take to the stage for separate live performances

Tickets for the Grand Prix are com or by calling the BIC Hotline

(Continued on Page 3)