

**Bahrain set for WEC spectacle**

Stacked 36-car grid to line up at Bahrain International Circuit this weekend in the Bapco Energies 8H of Bahrain | P12

WORLD **6** Gaza now a 'graveyard' for thousands of children: UN

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Japan's first fully autonomous vehicle project suspended **8** AUTOBUZZ

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**Beyon net profit rises 8% to BD17.6m**



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**AUB offers special financing facilities at Delmon Gate's Tayseer Exhibition**



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**HM King to receive Jordanian Monarch**

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa will receive His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, upon his arrival to the Kingdom of Bahrain today, the Royal Court announced yesterday. HM the King and King Abdullah II are scheduled to hold talks that will discuss the Bahraini-Jordanian bilateral ties and the latest regional and international developments.

The Royal Court welcomed the visit of His Majesty the Jordanian Monarch and his accompanying delegation.

**Saudi Arabia clear to host 2034 World Cup as Australia abandons bid**

AFP | Lausanne, Switzerland

Saudi Arabia is in line to host the 2034 World Cup after Fifa announced yesterday that the kingdom was the only bidder for the tournament.

Australia, which hosted the Women's World Cup this year, was also a contender but pulled out on Monday following the Asian Football Confederation's decision to back the Saudi bid.

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## HM King hails fallen BDF officer's 'courage and bravery'

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, commended Bahrain Defence Force taskforce's fallen serviceman, Major Mohammed Salem Mohammed Anber, for setting the best examples of courage and bravery.

HM the King emphasised that their sacrifices will remain engraved in the national memory, as they represent a source of inspiration for their patriotism and valour.

His Majesty was speaking as he received, at the Safriya Palace yesterday, the family of fallen serviceman, Major Anber, who lost his life while undertaking his patriotic duties within the Arab Coalition forces stationed along the southern borders of Saudi Arabia, as part of the Operation Decisive Storm and Operation Restoring Hope.

"Interest in the families of



HM the King receives Major Anber's family

the late servicemen and care for their affairs will always top our priorities," HM the King said, affirming that Bahrain will remain strong and advanced, with its citizens' unity, cohesion and solidarity, as well as rallying behind their leadership. The Armed

Forces Supreme Commander offered deepest condolences to the late serviceman's family, praying to Allah the Almighty to rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace, and to bless his relatives with patience and fortitude.

He also prayed to Allah the

Almighty to rest the souls of the other fallen servicemen in eternal peace and bless the wounded with speedy recovery, wishing the Kingdom further progress and glory. The relatives of Major Anber extended profound thanks and gratitude to HM King

hamad for his condolences and sympathy, wishing him abundant health, happiness and long life.

They renewed allegiance and loyalty to His Majesty, expressing their pride in their late son and in all Bahraini fallen servicemen.

# Path to progress

HRH Prince Salman: Economic diversification creates jobs and advances Bahrain's competitiveness

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised the importance of economic diversification efforts to provide quality job opportunities for citizens, support sustainable development, and advance the Kingdom's competitiveness, in line with the Economic Recovery Plan and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030.

HRH Prince Salman made the statement as he met yesterday with the Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Sameer Abdullah Nass, at Gudaibiya Palace.

The Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy,



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with Mr Nass

HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, and the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, HE Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki, also attended the meeting.

His Royal Highness noted that the public-private partnerships have contributed to the success of national initiatives and programmes aimed at serving citizens, providing all with quality

job opportunities, and achieving economic development, in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's far-reaching visions.

**Private sector contributions**

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister affirmed the Kingdom's pride in the contributions of the private sector in

furthering Bahrain's wide-ranging development.

He commended the BCCI's prominent role in focusing the efforts of the private sector to advance Bahrain's development to meet the citizen's aspirations.

Mr Nass expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to meet with HRH Prince Salman, noting HRH's commitment to support-

"The public-private partnerships have contributed to the success of national initiatives and programmes aimed at serving citizens, providing all with quality job opportunities, and achieving economic development, in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's far-reaching visions."

- HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

ing the BCCI's role to benefit the Kingdom and its citizens.

Dozens buried under the rubble

## 50 killed, 150 hurt in Gaza refugee camp blast

TDT | Manama

At least 50 people were killed, over 150 wounded, and dozens buried under the rubble yesterday as huge explosions ripped through a crowded Palestinian refugee camp in Jabalia, north of Gaza City. The interior ministry of Gaza said the deaths were from Israeli air attacks on resi-

dential blocks. The explosions left two giant craters in the densely populated area, an AFP report said. Walls filled the dusty air as volunteers clawed through the concrete blocks and twisted metal in a desperate search for survivors and bodies, with AFP video footage showing at least 47 corpses being recovered.

Gaza's health ministry termed the incident "a heinous Israeli massacre". Israel did not immediately comment on the blasts, AFP said.

One refugee camp resident, Ragheb Aqal, 41, likened the explosion to "an earthquake" and spoke of his horror at seeing "homes buried under the rubble and body parts and martyrs and

wounded in huge numbers".

The carnage came amid international warnings about the spiralling bloodshed and mounting humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Attacking a refugee camp was condemned by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and the Security Council, with the UNGA condemning such attacks through a resolution passed as early as

December 4, 1984.

**'Stop these massacres'**

The humanitarian toll has sparked global concern, with aid groups and the United Nations warning time is running out for many of the territory's 2.4 million people denied access to food, water, fuel and medicine.