

Tesla Model S Plaid sets 8.56s record

Carlos Yulo triumphed yesterday in the men's floor exercise of the gymnastics in Paris for only the second Olympic gold in the history of the Philippines. | P12

Bahrain condemns terrorist attack in Mogadishu hotel

TDT | Manama



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack on a hotel in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, which resulted in numerous deaths and injuries.

The Ministry emphasised the Kingdom of Bahrain's firm stance against terrorism and violence, asserting that such criminal acts are in direct contradiction with international laws and moral and humanitarian values.

In its statement, the Ministry expressed solidarity with Somalia and endorsed its efforts to ensure national security and stability.

Bahrain extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to the Somali government and people, while wishing a speedy recovery to those injured in the attack.

Saudi flash flood leaves one dead

AFP | Riyadh

A flash flood from the mountains of southwestern Saudi Arabia swept away part of a bridge in Jizan province, killing one person yesterday, state media reported.

State television news channel Al-Ekhbariya aired images of two vehicles caught up in the floodwaters, one of them crushed by a collapsed bridge support.

It said several people were also injured in the bridge collapse at an important crossroads inland from the Red Sea port city of Jizan.

Russian airfield and oil depot hit

AFP | Kyiv

Ukrainian drones targeted a military airfield and an oil depot in Russia, a defence source in Kyiv said yesterday, after Moscow reported repelling the latest aerial barrage.

Flexible terms, freedom to pay

Government passes new law for partial check payments and removing jail time for bounced checks

● Individuals and businesses can settle outstanding balances through installment plans

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

After years of deliberation, the government has officially approved significant amendments to its Commercial Law, addressing the issue of "checks without sufficient funds."

The new law, which was passed by the government to the legislative authorities, aims to streamline check payments and reduce the risk of financial hardship for individuals and businesses.

The new law introduces a system of partial check payments, allowing individuals and businesses to pay off outstanding balances in installments.

This eliminates the previous practice of imprisonment for bouncing checks, a measure that was widely criticised for its harshness.

The Central Bank of Bahrain, which initially proposed the complete removal of jail time for bouncing checks, has now agreed to a more nuanced approach.

While the new law does not completely abolish the possibility of imprisonment, it significantly reduces its likelihood by



Image used for illustrative purposes only

introducing a system of partial payments and a more flexible approach to check handling.

Technical infrastructure

The law mandates that banks

and financial institutions provide the necessary technical infrastructure to facilitate partial check payments.

This includes establishing clear procedures for processing

partial payments and ensuring transparency throughout the process.

The new law also introduces a provision allowing the partial payment of checks to be docu-



The new law significantly reduces the likelihood of imprisonment by introducing a system of partial payments and a more flexible approach to check handling.

mented through various methods, including bank statements, clearing house statements, or other means specified by the Central Bank.

This ensures that there is a clear record of partial payments, protecting both the payer and the payee.

Smooth transition

The Central Bank of Bahrain will be responsible for issuing regulations and guidelines on the implementation of the new law, ensuring a smooth transition to the new system.

The bank will also work closely with financial institutions and stakeholders to ensure that the new law is effectively implemented.

This new legislation will be discussed by the Parliament before being addressed by the Shura Council if members of the parliament approve it.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

Israel strike kills 10 at Gaza school compound

AFP | Palestinian Territories

Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike struck a school compound in Gaza City yesterday, killing at least 10 people.

"There are 10 martyrs and several wounded due to Israeli bombardment on Hamama school," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

The Israeli military confirmed the strike, saying it had hit a



Palestinians pull a body from the rubble following Israeli bombardment which hit a school complex, including the Hamama and al-Huda schools, in the north of Gaza City. (AFP)

Hamas command and control centre located inside the compound.

Bassal said the compound was housing Palestinians displaced from their homes in the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas fighters.

The Israeli military has repeatedly accused Hamas of using civilian facilities as command and control centres or to hide their commanders and leaders. The Palestinian group denies the accusation.

The war in Gaza erupted after Hamas fighters attacked Israel on October 7, which resulted in the death of 1,197 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Hamas also seized 251 people, 111 of whom are still held hostage in Gaza, including 39 the military says are dead.

Israel's withering military campaign has killed at least 39,550 people, according to the Gaza's health ministry.

