

**Bahrain1 claim superb win in US!**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER, 2023**  
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 ISSUE NO.9676

Kris Thorne powers to fantastic holeshot victory against Justin Bond in all-Bahrain1 Racing final in Indianapolis | **P12**

# THE DAILY tribune

BSB bolsters student performance through use of pioneering AI technology **8** **CAMPUS**

**BUSINESS** **5** UK's second biggest city latest to declare financial distress

## HM King affirms unwavering support to education

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa affirmed the government's unwavering support to education in the kingdom, adding that this sector should always keep abreast of the ongoing scientific and technological progress in the world.

HM the King urged the Bahraini families to help achieve the desired goals and contribute to further advancing the education sector in the kingdom.

"Our constant interest in education emanates from our firm conviction that it plays an essential role in sustainable development. Those who are learning today will be the pillars of the kingdom's development process in the future," His Majesty said.

HM King Hamad attributed the kingdom's educational strides to the efforts of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, expressing appreciation and pride in the



HM the King government's support to the education sector.

HM the King said that the positive results achieved by the educational process in the kingdom, as reflected in the constant distinction of Bahrainis in various fields, locally and abroad, are living proof of the progress of education in the kingdom.

He extended deepest congratulations to the educational staff and students on the new academic year 2023-2024, wishing them a successful school year.

HM the King expressed sincere thanks to officials, teachers, students and parents for the efforts they are making to ensure a successful return to schools and higher education institutions.

His Majesty commended their endeavours to develop the learning and academic process to achieve the best educational outcomes that cope with the developments of the labour market, enhance the students' academic achievements, as well as promote national and moral values among them and cement their national belonging.



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**N. Korea to 'pay price' if it gives Russia arms: US**  
AFP | Washington

The White House warned yesterday that North Korea would "pay a price" if it supplies Russia with weaponry for its war in Ukraine, with Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin expected to hold talks on the issue.

Sanctions-hit Russia is reportedly eager to secure more military supplies from its ally to bolster its forces as Kyiv pushes a highly scrutinised counteroffensive to take back its territory.

US President Joe Biden's national security advisor Jake Sullivan said Pyongyang and Moscow were eyeing "leader level discussions, perhaps even in person" on Russia's arms needs.

**Saudi, Russia extend oil cuts until year's end**  
AFP | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia and Russia said yesterday they would extend voluntary oil cuts until the end of the year, sending the price of Brent crude to a 10-month high.

The Saudi production cut of one million barrels per day which first took effect in July will continue "for another three months until the end of December 2023", the kingdom's energy ministry said in a statement.

Russia's export cut of 300,000 bpd will continue for the same period, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said in a separate statement.

**(Full report on Business Page)**

# Pledge to protect natural resources

HRH Prince Salman issues directives to accelerate implementation of Kingdom's afforestation plan

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is steadfastly committed to advancing environmental security as a top priority in the development plans, and to doubling efforts to protect its natural resources and contribute to sustainable development.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, made the statement as he visited yesterday the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

HRH Prince Salman directed efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Kingdom's afforestation plan, which aims to preserve natural resources, increase green spaces, and improve air quality, in support of the country's sustainable development that benefits all.



HRH Prince Salman with the Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Eng. Al Mubarak

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness was received by the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak. The Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and a number of senior officials were also in attendance.

The Minister presented the latest developments in the Kingdom's afforestation plan, which was launched in 2022 and aims to complete the planting of 310,000 trees and 570,000 mangrove seedlings by the end of this year. The move aims to

fulfil the Kingdom's commitment to combat climate change and preserve the environment.

**Joint responsibility**

His Royal Highness said that the implementation of the Government Plan's initiatives and programmes constitutes a joint responsibility that requires Team Bahrain's collaborative efforts to build on the Kingdom's achievements within its wide-ranging comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister expressed pride in the achievements throughout the Kingdom's 104-year history of municipal development, and its municipal elections, which have witnessed advancement over the past 99 years.

**Ritual parade**



Representatives of the Pygmy people pass by, moments before the start of the military parade in honour of General Brice Oligui Nguema (unseen), inaugurated as Gabon's interim President, in Libreville. Gabon's coup leader vowed after being sworn in as interim president on September 4, 2023 to restore civilian rule through "free, transparent and credible elections" after a transition and amnesty prisoners of conscience. (AFP)

## French schools refuse girls wearing abayas

AFP | Paris

French schools sent dozens of girls home for refusing to remove their abayas - an over-garment from the shoulders to the feet worn by Muslim women - on the first day of the school year, a government minister said yesterday.

Defying a ban on the Muslim robe, nearly 300 girls showed up on Monday morning wearing an abaya, Gabriel Attal told the BFM broadcaster.

Most agreed to change out of the robe, but 67 refused and were sent home, he said.

The government announced last month it was banning the abaya in schools, saying it broke the rules on secularism in education that have already seen Muslim headscarves banned on the grounds they constitute a display of religious affiliation.

The move gladdened the political right but the hard-left argued it represented an affront to civil liberties.

Attal said the girls refused entry were given a letter addressed to their families saying that "secularism is not a constraint, it is a liberty".