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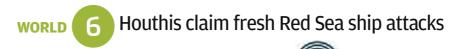
220 FILS

ISSUE NO.9830

Tennis stars to shine in Kingdom WEDNESDAY **FEBRUARY**

SPORTS

Former US Open champion Marin Cilic headlines impressive field in Baĥrain Ministry of Interior Tennis Challenger | P16



Riffa capture last-gasp win

Zain Bahrain 2023 profit grows 2% to BD 5.8m

Eats and Treats



P08-09

Azerbaijan elections set for today

TDT| Manama

Presidential elections in Azerbaijan are scheduled to be held today. While the election was originally scheduled for October next year, President Ilham Aliyev called for a snap election in December last year. The present President had won the 2018 elections and had secured a fourth consecutive term in office after obtaining 86 percent of the votes. The President of Azerbaijan is elected for a seven-year term.

HM King commends Bahrain's strong bilateral ties



TDT | Manama

the three new ambassadors strong relations between Bah- Alameri, Ambassador of the wished HM King Hamad abunrain and their countries in all United Arab Emirates.

credentials in a ceremony held diplomatic duties. at Al Sakhir Palace.



Okai Asako, Ambassador of Ja-**T**is Majesty King Hamad bin pan; H.E. Dr. Andreas Eliades, Isa Al Khalifa welcomed Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus; and H.E. Fahad Moto the Kingdom, praising the hammed Salem Bin Kardous states of their countries, who bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the Foreign Affairs; and Major Gen-

HM the King received their ambassadors success in their progress and prosperity.

His Majesty affirmed the by His Highness Shaikh Nasser Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of al Protocols chief.

The ambassadors are H.E. Kingdom's keenness to build bridges of cooperation with different countries worldwide.

The ambassadors conveyed the greetings of the heads of dant health and happiness and manitarian Work and Youth Af- ala, Royal Protocols Chief. HM King Hamad wished the Bahrain and its people further



HM the King receives the new ambassadors' credentials

King's Representative for Hu- eral Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Fadhfairs; Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Al Sakhir Palace separately, and The ceremony was attended Court; H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin were each welcomed by the Roy-

The ambassadors arrived at

Morality Mandate

Council of Representatives passes law criminalizing sexual deviance

Houthis claim fresh Red Sea ship attacks

AFP | Dubai

Yemen's Houthi rebels said yesterday they had struck US and British ships in two attacks in the Red Sea, the latest among dozens of incidents that have disrupted global shipping.

The Iran-backed rebels, who control much of the war-torn country, have been harassing shipping in a campaign they say is in solidarity with Palestinians in the Israel-Hamas war.

Trump wants to 'weaponise' US border issue

AFP | Washington

Us President Joe Biden accused Donald Trump of seeking to "weaponise" border security as he urged lawmakers yesterday to pass a \$118 billion package of immigration curbs and Ukraine aid that Republicans have threatened to

"He'd rather weaponise

220 fils (includes VAT)



TDT | Manama

n a move sparking debate, the Council of Represent-Latives overwhelmingly passed a law criminalizing acts deemed "sexual deviance" and prohibiting their promotion. The legislation, with the stat-

ed aim to shield society and families, has ignited discussions on social media and within the halls of power.

The law's primary advocate, MP Mohammed Al Ma'arifi, im- MP Mohammed Al Ma'arifi plored fellow Arab nations to ic principles and human nature. unacceptable by society. He urged protection of children from its "perpetuation."

tionally commit such acts. Mala aim to protect communities. deemed such behaviour a "social ill" deserving criminalization.



Meanwhile, MP Hassan Ibra-through social media. him emphasized parental retion for Human Rights' stance ilance against "intellectual in- broader community, that individuals might uninten- filtration" and lauded the law's

edged the challenges posed by by the Shura Council, sparking MP Ali Al Dosari voiced con- online campaigns and platforms anticipation of further debate cerns about attracting "deviant" in containing the phenomenon. and potential amendments.



adopt similar measures, calling foreign workers, advocating for MP Mahmoud Al Fardan drew sexual deviance" an "intellectubroader criminalization meas-comparisons to the biblical al invasion" contradicting Islam- ures against practices deemed "people of Lot," decrying the spread of "deviant behaviours"

MP Najib Al Kuwari urged the Criticism arose from MP sponsibility in monitoring chil- Ministry of Information to ramp Jameel Mulla Hassan Mala, who dren's activities, especially in up awareness campaigns targetchallenged the National Institu- the digital age. He called for vig- ing children, students, and the

With Council of Representatives' approval secured, the law MP Hisham Al Ashiri acknowl- now awaits review and a vote



MP Ali Al Dosari





MP Hisham Al Ashiri



MP Najib Al Kuwari

Pollution risks worsening global water scarcity: study **AFP** | Paris

pollution rendering river sources "un- scarce increases dramatically. safe" for humans and wildlife, researchers warned yesterday.

that around half the world's population Wageningen University & Research, said. currently faces severe water scarcity for at "Water pollution is becoming a more and least a month a year and warned that glob- more important issue that makes water

key risks to global supply.

But new research by scientists in Ger-Tater scarcity could affect three bil- many and the Netherlands has found that lion more people than previously if harmful nitrogen pollution is factored expected by mid-century, with increased in the number of areas considered water

"In general, people worry more about water scarcity - whether you have enough The UN's climate science panel has said water," lead author Mengru Wang, of al warming impacts and rising demand are unsafe to be used by nature and humans."



A carnival float depicting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz wearing an eyepatch and trying to look from a platform is pictured ahead a press conference on the shrove monday procession of the carnival season in Mainz. (AFP)