

Eats and Treats



P08-09

Azerbaijan elections set for today

TDI | 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.

P7

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 block.

"He'd rather weaponise

220 fils (includes VAT)



HM King commends Bahrain's strong bilateral ties



TDI | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa welcomed the three new ambassadors to the Kingdom, praising the strong relations between Bahrain and their countries in all domains.

HM the King received their credentials in a ceremony held at Al Sakhir Palace.



The ambassadors are H.E. Okai Asako, Ambassador of Japan; H.E. Dr. Andreas Eliades, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus; and H.E. Fahad Mohammed Salem Bin Kardous Alameri, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates.

HM King Hamad wished the ambassadors success in their diplomatic duties.

His Majesty affirmed the

Kingdom's keenness to build bridges of cooperation with different countries worldwide.

The ambassadors conveyed the greetings of the heads of states of their countries, who wished HM King Hamad abundant health and happiness and Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity.

The ceremony was attended by His Highness Shaikh Nasser



HM the King receives the new ambassadors' credentials

bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs; Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court; H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of

Foreign Affairs; and Major General Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Fadhal, Royal Protocols Chief.

The ambassadors arrived at Al Sakhir Palace separately, and were each welcomed by the Royal Protocols chief.

Morality Mandate

Council of Representatives passes law criminalizing sexual deviance

TDI | Manama

In a move sparking debate, the Council of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a law criminalizing acts deemed "sexual deviance" and prohibiting their promotion.

The legislation, with the stated 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, implored fellow Arab nations to adopt similar measures, calling "sexual deviance" an "intellectual invasion" contradicting Islamic principles and human nature. He urged protection of children from its "perpetuation."

Criticism arose from MP Jameel Mulla Hassan Mala, who challenged the National Institution for Human Rights' stance that individuals might unintentionally commit such acts. Mala deemed such behaviour a "social ill" deserving criminalization.

MP Ali Al Dosari voiced concerns about attracting "deviant"



MP Mohammed Al Ma'arifi



MP Jameel Mulla Hassan Mala



MP Ali Al Dosari



MP Hassan Ibrahim

foreign workers, advocating for broader criminalization measures against practices deemed unacceptable by society.

Meanwhile, MP Hassan Ibrahim emphasized parental responsibility in monitoring children's activities, especially in the digital age. He called for vigilance against "intellectual infiltration" and lauded the law's aim to protect communities.

MP Hisham Al Ashiri acknowledged the challenges posed by online campaigns and platforms in containing the phenomenon.

MP Mahmoud Al Fardan drew comparisons to the biblical "people of Lot," decrying the spread of "deviant behaviours" through social media.

MP Najib Al Kuwari urged the Ministry of Information to ramp up awareness campaigns targeting children, students, and the broader community.

With Council of Representatives' approval secured, the law now awaits review and a vote by the Shura Council, sparking anticipation of further debate and potential amendments.



MP Hisham Al Ashiri



MP Najib Al Kuwari

Pollution risks worsening global water scarcity: study

AFP | Paris

Water scarcity could affect three billion more people than previously expected by mid-century, with increased pollution rendering river sources "unsafe" for humans and wildlife, researchers warned yesterday.

The UN's climate science panel has said that around half the world's population currently faces severe water scarcity for at least a month a year and warned that global warming impacts and rising demand are

key risks to global supply.

But new research by scientists in Germany and the Netherlands has found that if harmful nitrogen pollution is factored in the number of areas considered water scarce increases dramatically.

"In general, people worry more about water scarcity - whether you have enough water," lead author Mengru Wang, of Wageningen University & Research, said. "Water pollution is becoming a more and more important issue that makes water unsafe to be used by nature and humans."

Just for fun



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)