

**Bahrain ready for 'difficult match' against Kuwait**

Defending champions focused on challenge at hand to advance to semi-finals of 25th Arab Gulf Cup in Basra, Iraq | P12

WORLD 6 **Ukraine says fighting to hold Soledar**

THE DAILY **tribune**



Hugh Jackman opens up on behaviour on sets of 'X-Men' movies that 'wouldn't happen now'

8 CELEB

BUSINESS 5 **Southern Tourism Company signs MoU with Abu Dhabi Maritime**

**Pope thanks HM King**



TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received a cable of thanks from His Holiness Pope Francis, the Head of the Catholic Church, for HM's congratulations on Christmas.

Pope Francis expressed pride in HM King Hamad's congratulations, wishing the kingdom further progress and prosperity, under HM the King's leadership.

**Oil minister welcomes COP28 UAE President-Designate**



Mubarak bin Daina  
 TDT | Manama

Bahrain welcomed yesterday the appointment of Dr Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber, the UAE minister, as President-Designate of the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28).

COP28 will be hosted by the UAE at Expo City Dubai from November 30 to December 12, 2023.

Dr Al-Jaber, the UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and Special Envoy for Climate Change, was named by UAE President HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed.

Welcoming, Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Daina, Bahrain's Oil and Environment Minister and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, expressed confidence in the UAE's ability to host COP28 and its accompanying events.

Shamma Al Mazrui, UAE Minister of State for Youth Affairs, and Razan Al Mubarak, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), will join Dr Sultan as the Youth Climate Champion and UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, respectively.

220 fils (includes VAT)



6 084010 110021 >



**19th NAO report**

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister receives the 19th NAO Annual Report 2021-2022 at Riffa Palace from the Auditor-General of the National Audit Office (NAO), Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa

**Ministry cancels prior approval, fees for promotions**

TDT | Manama

Food shop owners in the Kingdom will not be required to seek any approval or remit a fee for launching promotional campaigns for three months.

The Consumer Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said this yesterday announcing a temporary suspension for approval and fees for supermarkets to run promotional campaigns.

The move, aimed at boosting retail activity, follows a decision by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The directorate called on all to take advantage of the offer by contacting the directorate at 17574991 or promotion\_enquiries@moic.gov.bh.

**More jobs, better income GAP gets unanimous nod**

Improving living standards, wages, and purchasing power focus of four-year Government Action Plan

- Priority for justice, security and stability, economic recovery and sustainable development, quality and competitive government service

TDT | Manama

Raising people's standards of living and purchasing power formed the crux of the Government Action Plan (GAP) that received a unanimous nod from parliamentarians yesterday.



The urgent extraordinary session yesterday endorsed a consensual 4-year Government Programme

The approval came during an urgent extraordinary session that saw more than five hours of heated debates, discussions and amendments.

During the session, the GAP also set other priorities, which include attaining justice, security and stability, economic recovery and sustainable development, improving quality and making government services more competitive. The session set these priorities after reaching consensus on six themes: Raising the standards of living, the sovereign and legislative theme, infrastructure and environment, economic recovery and financial sustainability,

community services, government performance and digital transformation.

All these "will be implemented through the policies and initiatives included in the Government programme," said Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, chairing the session that saw

MPS proposing several amendments and their approval.

Shaikh Khalid assured MPS that the government is committed to making citizens the priority and theme of the 2023-2026 Work Programme. "The aim is to boost the efficiency of public services, achieve financial balance, and enhance private sector partnership," added Shaikh Khalid. The decisions came after discussions on reports by specialised committees and their proposals regarding priorities in the GAP in parallel with the Fiscal Balance Programme.

(Continued on page 2)

**Breakthrough tech**

**3D printing reaches new heights with two-story home**

Reuters | Houston

A 3D printer is taking home building to a new level — literally.

The enormous printer weighing more than 12 tons is creating what is believed to be the first 3D-printed, two-story home in the United States.

The machine steadily hums away as it extrudes layers of concrete to build the 4,000-square-foot home in Houston.



A 12-ton industrial 3-D printer is used to print concrete two-story home

Construction will take a total of 330 hours of printing, said architect Leslie Lok, co-founder of design studio Hannah and designer of the home.

"You can actually find a lot of 3D-printed buildings in many states," Lok said. "One of the things about printing a second

story is you require, you know, the machine...And of course, there are other challenges: structural challenges, logistic challenges when we print a second-story building." The three-bedroom home with wooden framing is about halfway finished and is being sold to a family, who wish to remain anonymous, she said.

(See page 2)