



Earthquake death toll tops 33,000
 Antakya, Turkey

Rescuers pulled more survivors from the rubble yesterday, nearly a week after one of the worst earthquakes to hit Turkey and Syria, as Turkish authorities sought to maintain order across the disaster zone and began legal action over building collapses.

With chances of finding more survivors growing more remote, the toll in both countries from Monday's earthquake and major aftershocks rose above 33,000 and looked set to keep growing. It was the deadliest quake in Turkey since 1939.

Displaced residents in the Turkish city of Kahramanmaraş, near the epicentre, said they had set up tents as close as they could to their damaged or destroyed homes in an effort to prevent them from being looted.

Royal Guard search and rescue mission
 Ankara

The Royal Guard's search and rescue taskforce continues its humanitarian mission "Sawaed Al-Ghaith" in Turkey.

It is under the supervision of Major General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the National Security Advisor, Royal Guard Commander.

The mission aims to cushion the impact of the earthquake which rocked Turkey and Syria recently.

The team, which is working round the clock, is dealing with the rubble very professionally out of keenness to apply the highest standards of safety while unearthing survivors and the victims caught under the rubble in the devastated areas.

Bahrainis are back home from Turkey
 TDT | Manama

A second group of Bahraini citizens have returned to Bahrain from the cities of Urfa and Hata in Turkey.

The Embassy of Bahrain in Ankara stepped in to fly them back home.

Ready to extend a 'helping hand'

HM King Hamad praises Bahrain's humanitarian relief mission in quake-hit Turkey and Syria



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HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa commended the Royal Humanitarian Foundation's humanitarian mission to provide assistance and support to the people in Syrian and Turkey who were affected by the earthquakes.

HM the King expressed deep thanks and gratitude to all the people in Bahrain who supported and participated in the national campaign to help the victims. He stressed that this reflected the values of solidarity, mutual support, and cooperation with all that characterise the Bahraini society.

His Majesty was speaking as he received yesterday His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin



HM the King receives HRH Prince Salman

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HM King Hamad hailed the participation of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) in the humanitarian relief mission in Turkey through the Royal Guard search and rescue team and their endeavours to ease the

suffering of the victims and HH Shaikh Nasser's supervision and follow-up.

He lauded the RHF's role and stressed that the initiative reflects Bahrain's humanitarian presence and readiness to extend a helping hand and assistance to all countries under

various circumstances.

The meeting, at the Sakhir Palace, was attended by HM the King's Personal Representative HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, National Security Adviser and

Commander of the Royal Guard HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Royal Court Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani.

National matters, mainly moving forward to achieve the goals of the Kingdom's progress, were reviewed.

HM the King praised HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's achievements for the nation and dedicated endeavours to consolidate Bahrain's status and competitiveness in a way that contributes to fulfilling the people's aspirations for further progress and prosperity.

HM King Hamad stressed that Bahraini citizens remain at the core of all development plans.

HRH Prince Salman: Kingdom invests in Bahraini citizens

● His Royal Highness inaugurates Citi Bahrain Global Technology Hub new offices

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has emphasised that investing in Bahraini citizens and providing promising opportunities is an essential pillar of the Kingdom's ongoing comprehensive development.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he inaugurated yesterday the new offices of Citi Bahrain Global Technology Hub in Manama.

Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Central Bank of Bahrain Governor Rasheed Mohamed Al Maraj and a num-



HRH Prince Salman with Shaikh Salman, Governor Al Maraj and senior officials

ber of senior officials were also present.

His Royal Highness stressed the importance of enhancing the private sector's role as a strategic partner to increase its contribution to the Kingdom's

development goals, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He highlighted the role of financial and banking institutions in supporting the economic sector and positioning Bahrain as

an attractive business and investment destination.

HRH Prince Salman outlined how the Kingdom's advanced and innovative digital infrastructure supports financial and banking services technologies

regionally and globally.

His Royal Highness emphasised the role financial and banking institutions play in creating job opportunities for Bahrainis and highlighted the capabilities of Bahraini professionals in the sector.

He noted that the Kingdom's economic diversification efforts continue to advance by developing various plans and strategies for all sectors, and attracting investments, which contribute to the creation of new job opportunities for Bahraini citizens in accordance with the goals of the Economic Recovery Plan and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030.

Citi Bahrain's CEO, Michel Sawaya, expressed his appreciation to HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for his commitment and support to the Kingdom's banking and financial sector, which has contributed greatly to the sector's development.

