

Circular on Eid Al-Adha holiday

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued a circular regarding the Arafah and the Eid Al-Adha holidays.

According to the circular, the Kingdom's ministries and public institutions will be closed on the day of Arafah, and on Eid Al-Adha, corresponding to 27-30 June, respectively.

As Friday is already an official holiday, Sunday, 2 July, will be given in lieu, the circular added.

Israeli troops kill five Palestinians

Jenin, West Bank

Israeli forces, backed by the rare use of helicopter gunships, killed five Palestinians including a teenager and wounded more than 90, as a West Bank raid led to an hours-long gunbattle with armed fighters, the military and health officials said.

Eight Israeli personnel were wounded after troops came under fire during an operation in the flashpoint city of Jenin to arrest two Palestinians suspected in attacks, the military said. At least three of the Palestinians killed in the fighting belonged to the armed Islamic Jihad group.

US-India ties 'turning point'

New Delhi/Washington

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi heads to the US this week for a visit billed as a turning point for bilateral relations, with deeper cooperation in defence industry and sharing high technology in sharp focus.

The visit is expected to give India access to critical American technologies Washington rarely shares with non-allies, strengthening a new bond that is underpinned by not just global politics but also business and economics.

Call to Support Bahraini Hajj Pilgrims

HRH Prince Salman commends Saudi for commitment to ensure seamless Hajj season

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, directed relevant entities to support Bahraini citizens participating in the Hajj pilgrimage.

HRH Prince Salman commended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and the support of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for their commitment to ensure a seamless Hajj season.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he chaired yesterday the weekly Cabinet meeting at Gudaibiya Palace. The Cabinet highlighted the importance of the official meeting between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the UAE President, HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at His Majesty's residence in Abu Dhabi. In this regard, the Cabinet emphasised that the meeting further strengthened relations between the two countries and their peoples.

Tier 1 status

The Cabinet noted Bahrain's comprehensive development

The Minister of Housing and man, board, staff and players



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting



success in retaining a Tier 1 status in the US Department of State's Trafficking in Persons report for the sixth consecutive year. The annual publication provides an assessment of global efforts to combat human trafficking.

Bahrain's high rating reflects its competency in mitigating issues of trafficking.

The Cabinet attributed this achievement to the Kingdom's

led by His Majesty the King and supported by the government, under the leadership of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Additionally, the Cabinet monitored progress on the implementation of His Royal Highness' directives to hold events and exhibitions that raise awareness on housing finance services and programmes for Bahraini citizens.

Urban Planning reviewed the success of the exhibition in achieving its objectives.

The Cabinet congratulated the graduates of the Bahrain Teachers College as well as expressed their appreciation to the Board of Directors and staff for their efforts in driving academic excellence, resulting in the largest number of graduates in the history of the College.

It congratulated the chair-

of the Al Najma Club on winning the 25th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship and the Manama Club on being champions at the inaugural FIBA West Asia Super League.

The Cabinet commended the athletes of both sports clubs for their wins and their role in affirming Bahrain's position as a leader on the global sports stage.

Ranked 25th globally

Bahrain global competitiveness improves

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The Kingdom of Bahrain ranked 25th globally, improving by five spots, in the World Competitiveness Ranking issued by the Institute for Management Development (IMD).

The ranking is a comprehensive report that ranks countries according to how they manage their competencies to achieve long-term value creation.

The report showed that the Kingdom ranked first globally in seven indicators and was among the top 10 countries worldwide in 36 indicators.

Bahrain witnessed a significant 16 spot improvement in the 'Economic Performance' factor ranking 23rd globally.

Its business-friendly environment was also highlighted by 69.4% of executives surveyed for



the report, while 61.3% of them noted the Kingdom's skilled workforce as a contributing factor to its economy.

The IMD World Competitiveness Ranking placed Bahrain first globally in the availability of qualified engineers in the labour

market. The Kingdom also ranked third globally in the flexibility and adaptability of the labour

force, third in technological/digital skills, fourth in labor force skills, and sixth globally in the finance skills.

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