

Nominations open for Isa Award

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HM King, HRH CP, PM congratulate Egypt's El-Sisi



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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday congratulated Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on the anniversary of the July Revolution.

HM the King expressed deepest congratulations and good wishes to President El-Sisi, wishing Egypt and its people further progress and prosperity under his leadership.

King Hamad praised deep-rooted solid bilateral relations, stressing keenness to continue strengthening joint ties.

Separately, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also congratulated El-Sisi, on the anniversary of Revolution Day of Egypt.

His Royal Highness sent a similar cable to the Prime Minister of Egypt, Dr Mostafa Madbouly.

Yemen arrests suspect in UN staffer killing

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Authorities in Yemen have arrested a suspect in the killing of a World Food Programme staffer in Taz province, a security official told AFP on Saturday.

Moayad Hameidi, the head of the UN agency's office in Taz, was killed in a shooting Friday in the nearby city of Turbah, the Rome-based WFP has confirmed.

"The perpetrator of the criminal assassination of the United Nations employee in the city of Turbah in Taz (province)... has been in the city of Taz since 2017, after fleeing Aden due to security operations against Al-Qaeda operatives," the security official said late Friday.

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Tensions escalate as Kyiv strikes Crimea

Russia says Ukraine used cluster munitions on border village

Ukrainian army confirmed it blew up ammunition depot

Lukashenko arrives in Saint Petersburg

Moscow blames West and Kyiv for death of war correspondent

TDT | agencies



A picture shows detonation of ammunition caused by a fire at a military training field in the Kirovsky district of Crimea



News of the blaze came two days after Ukraine used waterborne drones to attack the Kerch bridge, a key military supply artery from Russia to annexed Crimea. Authorities ordered the evacuation of over 2,000 residents from areas near the military field.

A Ukrainian drone attack on Crimea yesterday blew up an ammunition depot, sparking evacuations on the Moscow-annexed peninsula just five days after drones damaged Russia's symbolic bridge across the Kerch Strait.

In a statement, the Ukrainian army confirmed it was behind an attack which blew up an ammunition depot in the annexed Crimean Peninsula yesterday.

"The strike on military installations in the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea was carried out by Ukrainian forces," an army source said on condition of anonymity.

Late yesterday, Belarus leader

Alexander Lukashenko arrived in Saint Petersburg, where he is due to meet the Russian president for the first time since he helped end a dramatic mutiny by Russian mercenaries from the Wagner group.

Putin and his closest ally plan to discuss the "strategic part-

nership and alliance" between their two countries today, according to the Kremlin.

Moscow meanwhile blamed the West and Kyiv for the death of a Russian war correspondent, saying he was killed by cluster munitions.

Russia alleged that Kyiv

had used cluster munitions on the Russian border village of Zhuravlevka and that the controversial weapon had killed one of its journalists in a front-line village.

"In the Belgorod region, 21 artillery shells and three cluster munitions from a multiple rocket launcher were fired (by the Ukrainian army) at the village of Zhuravlevka," Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram, referring to attacks the previous day.

The allegations came two weeks after US President Joe Biden faced fierce criticism from his own allies for sending the munitions, which pose a long-term risk to civilians.

The Russian army announced that Rostislav Zhuravlev, a war correspondent working for the state RIA Novosti news agency, died from his wounds after coming under fire from cluster munitions in occupied southern Ukraine.

Moscow blamed the West and Kyiv, vowing to respond after what the foreign ministry called "a heinous, premeditated crime".

Three other journalists were said to be stable in hospital after the attack.

Timely action averts disaster as fire erupts at Al Hunainiyah park



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The Civil Defence forces took swift action yesterday to prevent a potential disaster as a fire broke out in the wooden cabins at Al-Hunainiyah Park in East Riffa. Thanks to their timely response, the fire was promptly brought under control, resulting in no reported injuries. Investigations are ongoing to ascertain the cause and circumstances surrounding the fire's outbreak.

Five arrested with narcotic substances



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The Anti-Narcotics Department, under the General Directorate of Investigation and Criminal Evidence, yesterday announced arresting five individuals, aged between 33 and 40, in two separate incidents for pending narcotic substances.

Police made these arrests based on a tip-off received regarding the suspects' involvement in illegal activities related to narcotics.

The General Department of Investigation and Criminal Evidence said it took the necessary legal measures to refer the suspects to the Public Prosecution.

Iraqis keep up Quran protests after book burnings

Baghdad, Iraq

Iraqi security forces yesterday dispersed about 1,000 supporters of cleric Moqtada Sadr who tried to march to Baghdad's Green Zone housing foreign embassies, believing a Koran had been desecrated in Denmark. The protesters were reacting to reports of an apparent desecration of the Muslim holy book for the third time within a month, with the first two in Sweden already raising diplomatic tensions.

An elephantine task



Cambodia's National Election Committee (NEC) officials transporting election materials to a polling station in Monduliri province. Cambodians will vote today in an election that longtime leader Hun Sen is all but guaranteed to win as he looks to secure his legacy by handing the reins to his eldest son. The 70-year-old former Khmer Rouge cadre has ruled since 1985 and faces no real contest in this vote, with opposition parties banned, challenger candidates forced to flee and freedom of expression stifled. His Cambodian People's Party (CPP) is likely to retain all 125 seats in the lower house