

HM King makes new judicial appointments



HM the King
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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued a Royal Decree with judicial appointments.

According to the appointments published in the Official Gazette, Judge Atef Abdel Samie Ibrahim Mohamed is appointed as President of the Civil High Court of Appeal.

The royal order also decreed that Mr. Salman Abdullah Khamis Al Sulaiti be appointed as the Deputy Attorney General.

Houthis target government troops in Taiz

Al Mukalla

Yemen's military officials said yesterday that the Iran-backed Houthis had launched attacks on government troops outside the besieged city of Taiz and fired reconnaissance drones in the last 48 hours, the latest in a series of Houthi military efforts to make headway toward the city's downtown.

The Houthis had targeted Yemeni army positions on the city's eastern, northeastern, and western outskirts.

Tuareg flock to Algerian desert oasis for ancient festival

AFP | Djanet, Algeria

In a riot of colour, music and dance, thousands of Tuareg have flocked to the Sebeiba festival that marks the end of an ancient tribal feud and which once a year transforms an oasis town deep in the Algerian Sahara.

The Tuareg are a semi-nomadic people of Berber descent who practice Islam and whose traditional desert homeland stretches across parts of Algeria, Libya, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso.

The annual Sebeiba festival, held in Djanet, 1,500 kilometres

Bahrain's success in fighting trafficking in persons praised

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Arab Parliament Speaker Adel Abdulrahman Al Asoomi has commended the efforts made by Bahrain in confronting trafficking in persons.

He thanked the sound vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to consolidate human rights, protect fundamental freedoms, ensure equality before the law without distinction or discrimination, as well as provide means of redress and justice.

The Speaker emphasised HM the King's keenness to establish the rules of equality and promote human rights for the citizens and residents.

Al Asoomi made the statements the occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, which is observed worldwide every July 30.

He said that Bahrain is a regional and international leader in combating trafficking in persons in all its forms, as it enjoys a unique and distinguished experience in this field.

This reflects the keenness of HM King Hamad to preserve human dignity and optimise Bahrain's achievements in this regard, citing the Kingdom's success in maintaining "Tier 1" status for the sixth consecutive year in the United States Department of State's 2023 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report,

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- ADEL ABDULRAHMAN AL ASOOMI, ARAB PARLIAMENT SPEAKER

which is the highest annual international classification in this field, in addition to the laws and agreements that the Kingdom has joined to protect human



rights and combat human trafficking, he added.

The Speaker expressed gratitude to the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Sal-

man bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for its unwavering efforts to institutionalise anti-human trafficking by putting in place a comprehensive development strategy based on respecting human rights, and promoting the culture of combating trafficking in persons within the work of all concerned government agencies.

Al Asoomi stressed the importance of the serious steps taken by Bahrain to hold those involved in crimes of trafficking in persons accountable and refer them to the judicial authority to achieve justice for the victims, as well as support them and help them overcome the psychological repercussions.

Royal support major factor in Ashura success: Salloum

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Representative Ahmed Saibah Al Salloum praised the continuous royal support enjoyed by religious institutions and places of worship, indicating that this is a fulfillment of the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Al Salloum said that the authorities have prepared well to receive the sacred month of Muharram, through a set of measures to ensure the fullest service of citizens and mourners.

He pointed out that supporting the revival of religious and



MP Al Salloum

Islamic rituals characterises the homogeneity, cultural and social identity of the Kingdom throughout history.

The lawmaker praised the

success of Ashura commemoration this year, and the high levels of discipline that preserved the essence of the commemoration, its symbolism, and its place in the hearts and consciences of the people.

MP Al Salloum stressed that the support of His Majesty the King had a great impact on preserving the memory of Ashura with its specificity and spiritual nature, and for it to clearly express one of the most important pillars of religious freedom and sectarian pluralism that Bahrain has enjoyed throughout the years.

Pope urges Russia to resume Ukraine safe grain passage deal



Pope Francis waves from the window of the apostolic palace overlooking St. Peter's square during the weekly Angelus prayer yesterday in The Vatican. (AFP)

AFP | Vatican City

Pope Francis yesterday called on Russia to return to the agreement that had allowed the safe passage of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea to world markets.

The Ukraine grain deal was agreed last year and allowed around 33 million tonnes of grain to leave Ukrainian ports, helping to stabilise global food prices and avert shortages.

"I am calling on my brothers, the authorities in the Russian Federation, to re-establish the Black Sea initiative so that the wheat could be safely transported", Francis said during his weekly Angelus prayer.

"We are constantly praying for martyred Ukraine, where the war is destroying

everything, including the wheat, which is a major offence to God because wheat is his gift to feed humanity and the cries of millions of our brothers and sisters suffering from hunger are lifting to the sky," he said.

Russia two weeks ago refused to extend a deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, under which Ukrainian grain exports passed through the Black Sea to reach global markets, including Africa, easing pressure on food prices.

Moscow withdrew from the agreement after protesting for months that the parts of the deal that allowed for the export of Russian fertiliser were not honoured.

Following Russia's pullout, wheat prices have risen.

Palestinian political rivals form 'reconciliation committee'

AFP | Cairo

Rival Palestinian political leaders meeting in Egypt decided yesterday to form a committee on intra-Palestinian reconciliation, a move that one analyst doubted would end their 17-year rift.

President Mahmud Abbas and Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh met for rare face-to-face talks in the coastal city of El Alamein along with representatives of most Pal-

estinian political factions.

The latest attempt at reconciliation aims to bridge the gap between the parallel governments of Hamas in the blockaded Gaza Strip and of the Palestinian Authority - controlled by Abbas's secularist Fatah movement - which administers Palestinian-run areas of the occupied West Bank.

Abbas and Haniyeh were joined by the heads of other

factions, except for the powerful Islamic Jihad and two other minor groups.

Islamic Jihad had made the release of prisoners held by PA security forces a condition for sending representatives to El Alamein.

Haniyeh earlier yesterday called on Abbas to end "security collaboration" with Israel and "political arrests", according to participants at the meeting.

The Hamas leader also said "a new, inclusive parliament must be formed on the basis of free democratic elections".

Hamas, which won the Palestinians' last legislative polls held in 2006, has repeatedly called for general elections.

Abbas said yesterday "the coup d'etat and the division that befell us after... must end," referring to clashes between Hamas and Fatah that followed the 2006 vote.

"We must return to a single state, a single system, a single law and a single legitimate army," Abbas added.

National unity

To work towards this, the 87-year-old president announced "the formation of a committee to continue the dialogue... end divisions and achieve Palestinian national unity".

A later statement from Abbas said he "hopes for an upcoming meeting soon in Egypt to announce to our people the end" of the 17-year split "and the return to Palestinian national unity".

Palestinian political scientist Moukhaimeer Abu Saada told AFP that the formation of the committee was no cause for celebration.

"The best way to kill something is to form a committee for it," he said, speaking from Gaza.