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## Bahrain's links with Jersey in spotlight

HIS Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday met Jersey Chief Minister Kristina Moore, at Riffa Palace.

HRH Prince Salman emphasised the importance of further strengthening co-operation between the two countries in all sectors, particularly in education, health and financial services, to benefit both countries and their people.

During the meeting, regional and global developments, and

ways to advance bilateral relations were discussed.

Ms Moore expressed her gratitude to HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister for his commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and wished Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa also attended the meeting.



HRH Prince Salman and Ms Moore during the meeting

## World this morning

### Deal for clean energy projects

MUMTALAKAT, Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund, and Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at exploring collaboration opportunities in the development of clean and renewable energy projects in the kingdom. Under the terms of this MoU, Mumtalakat and Masdar will collaborate to develop a pipeline of renewable energy projects, supply cost competitive green energy to Bahrain, build local capabilities and foster innovation in Bahrain by utilising their complementary expertise and know-how. In addition, they will explore co-investment opportunities in other markets of common interest.

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# SWITCH IT OFF!

A NATIONAL programme will be launched to reduce electricity consumption in private and public sector buildings in Bahrain.

Kafa'a is aimed at increasing energy efficiency and reduce power consumption in line with national efforts to achieve net zero by 2060, said Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) president Kamal Ahmed.

"The initiative will be launched in co-operation with Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), to increase the efficiency of energy consumption in government buildings," he added.

The programme will aim to save electricity consumption by around 975GWh and reduce carbon emissions by about 488,000 tonnes by 2040.

"It will also contribute to flattening energy use during

peak hours which will mitigate the need for additional generation capacity," said Mr Ahmed, affirming the important role of the programme in raising awareness on energy efficiency.

The authority will begin the process of ESCOs auditing the energy consumption of selected buildings, through upgrading the energy efficiency in the buildings, while monitoring and verifying the impact, and providing financing solutions to public sector customers.

Mr Ahmed noted that ESCOs is considered one of the solutions to achieve Bahrain's goals of conserving energy and resources, as well as achieving net zero by 2060.

Last year, the EWA completed a pilot project to improve the energy efficiency of four government buildings in co-operation with ESCOs.

The results showed that energy consumption was reduced by 41 per cent annually, while bills decreased by 39pc and carbon emissions were reduced by 5,430 tonnes.

## Humanitarian alarm grows

ISRAELI troops fought fierce battles with Hamas in an expanding offensive into southern Gaza yesterday, forcing tens of thousands of displaced Palestinian civilians to cram into a city close to the Egyptian border to avoid Israeli bombardment.

However, many feared they would not be safe in Rafah either with their options for refuge dwindling, and at least nine people were killed yesterday in the Israeli shelling of a house in the city, Palestinian medical sources said.

Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians had already fled from northern Gaza to the south during the two-month-old war between Israel and Hamas. The latest exodus leaves many displaced Palestinians increasingly cornered near the fortified Egyptian border, in an area that has been deemed safe by Israel.

"The Israelis are lying. No place in Gaza is safe," Samir Abu Ali, a father of five, said.

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A woman sits with her children outside, as displaced Palestinians, who fled their houses due to Israeli strikes, shelter in a camp in Rafah

### 50 tonnes of aid

RETAIL giant LuLu Group yesterday donated an array of products to the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) in Cairo to provide much-needed relief and support for the people of Gaza. The first batch of aid, consisting of 50 tonnes of food products and other essentials such as medicines and hygiene items, was handed over to ERC's CEO Dr Rami El Nasser by LuLu Egypt and Bahrain director Juzer Rupawala, regional director Husefa Qureshi and LuLu Egypt's marketing manager Hatim Sayeed.

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### Johnson sorry

FORMER British prime minister Boris Johnson gave his most explicit apology for his handling of the coronavirus crisis yesterday, saying his government had been too complacent and "vastly underestimated" the risks posed by the virus. He said Covid-19 had first appeared as a "cloud on the horizon" and not the "typhoon" that went on to kill more than 230,000 people in Britain.

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■ The first batch of aid donated to ERC by the LuLu Group



■ ERC and LuLu team working together to support the people of Palestine

# LuLu donates 50 tonnes of relief supplies to Gaza

RETAIL giant LuLu Group yesterday donated an array of products to the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC) in Cairo to provide much-needed relief and support for the people of Gaza.

The first batch of aid, consisting of 50 tonnes of food products and other essentials such as medicines and hygiene items, was handed over to ERC's chief executive Dr Rami El Nasser by LuLu Egypt and Bahrain director Juzer Rupawala, regional director Husefa Qureshi and LuLu Egypt's marketing manager Hatim Sayeed.

ERC will deliver the items in Arish town through the Al Rafah border. Dr El Nasser expressed his grati-

tude to LuLu Group and its chairman Yusuffali MA for supporting the Palestinian people.

LuLu, also a key partner of the UAE's 'Tarahum for Gaza' relief campaign, has set up aid centres at various hypermarkets to collect and send materials in association with Emirates Red Crescent.

The group has been closely working with humanitarian agencies in other Gulf countries on similar initiatives.

LuLu Bahrain had donated BD25,000 to the Royal Humanitarian Foundation as part of the Bahrain National Campaign for Supporting the Palestinians in Gaza.



■ LuLu Group members with Dr El Nasser, third from right, and Mr Rupawala, second from right

## Royal family member mourned

THE Royal Court mourned the passing of Shaikh Isa bin Mubarak bin Hamad bin Sabah Al Khalifa. A statement issued yesterday by the Royal Court included prayers that Allah the Almighty would rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace, and bless his relatives with patience and fortitude.

### Green Factory Label

THE Industry and Commerce Ministry has launched the "Green Factory Label", which will be granted to establishments that have obtained its industrial licence.

The move, aiming to support the kingdom's efforts to achieve sustainability at various levels, in line with the Bahrain National Action Plan (Blueprint) to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, was announced on the sidelines of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), being hosted by the UAE. Commenting, Industry and Commerce Minister Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro indicated that the launch is part of the government's endeavours to promote a developed and sustainable industry and achieve the vision of the Industrial Sector Strategy (2022-2026), noting that the Sustainable Manufacturing Promotion Programme (Green Factory Label) is considered one of

the Initiatives aiming to spread the culture of sustainability and apply the concepts of the circular carbon economy, as well as environmental and social governance. He explained that the Green Factory Label will be granted to factories that meet one of the standards that have been established based on the most prominent regional and global practices in the field of sustainable manufacturing, naming factories that reuse 10 per cent of their industrial waste in their production processes, use 10pc of renewable energy to operate their industrial facility, apply environmental and social governance policies, have systems for monitoring air and environmental pollutant emissions, have systems for calculating greenhouse gases, or have a carbon capture unit.

### Admissions started

THE General Directorate of Civil Defence started admission procedures for registered applicants in the civil defence service voluntary programme listed on the official website www.ncpp.gov.bh, the Civil Defence director general Air Commodore Ali Al Kubaisi said. The programme aims to achieve social integration and form voluntary teams to take part in fire extinguishing, rescue operations and first aid services, he added.



■ Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna Al Romaihi has affirmed that the kingdom has made rapid strides in incorporating the principles of sustainability within the development plans and projects included in the government's programmes, in a way that contributes to supporting the kingdom's comprehensive development process, led by His Majesty King Hamad, and boosts the national efforts to reach carbon neutrality by 2060. Addressing the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanisation and Climate Change, held on the sidelines of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN

Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), being hosted by the UAE, Ms Al Romaihi indicated that the kingdom's experience in the field of urban planning and development is aligned with the 11th Sustainable Development Goal aiming to "make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", noting that the government, led by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, is making continuous efforts to develop planning standards to ensure the sustainability of cities by updating the regulatory requirements for urbanisation to enhance demand for agricultural lands.



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