

170 & 190 PERMANENT DRY SAFE INK
Artline
 UNION STATIONERY Grand Stationery Superstore
 Tel: 17714461, 17530305 Fax: 17714161, 17531645 E-mail: uniongroup@bahrain.com.bh

NJ ZENJ EXCHANGE CO. W.L.L.
 Zenj Loyalty Raffle
 Win Car, Airline tickets and Electronics
 Contact us for details
 "For Best Remittance Services"
 Tel: 17224352, Manama

Government loses landmark court battle 3



New Spielberg film 'reflects 9/11 unease' 20-21

Suicide attack on US troops

Bahrain slashing business costs

MANAMA: Bahrain is slashing the cost and time it takes to open a new business. It is cutting Commercial Registration (CR) fees by more than BD6 million a year and slashing the amount of capital investors must have up-front. A deadline of six weeks has been set to get the new measures in place, Industry and Commerce Minister Dr Hassan Fakhro announced yesterday. CR fees, which vary according to the type of business, will be replaced with a single flat fee. "The ministry hopes to reduce total fees by

By SOMAN BABY
 more than BD6m, a considerable saving to the business community," Dr Fakhro told a Press conference, organised by the Economic Development Board (EDB), at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain Hotel and Spa. "The new decision will particularly help small- and medium-sized businesses, which make up more than 90 per cent of the total registered. The new measures are part of economic reforms

aimed at increasing per capita income by more than two fold to BD10,000 in 10 years, he said. "The annual GDP (gross domestic product) growth is expected to increase from five per cent to nine per cent and annual productivity growth from 1.5pc to 4pc to 5pc during the same period," said Dr Fakhro. "Annual investments will be increased from 16pc to 25pc of the GDP, and employment growth from 3.7pc to 4pc to 5pc." **Reforms package to cut red-tape - Page 11**

The world this morning

King leaves for G-77 summit

MANAMA: His Majesty King Hamad today heads for Doha where he will chair Bahrain's delegation to the second G-77 and China summit. It will discuss economic, commercial and development issues today and tomorrow. Stage set - 12 Relief 'not enough' - 25



■ The King ... visit

Crown Prince to visit BCCI

MANAMA: Crown Prince and Economic Development Board chairman Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa will visit Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday, our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej* reports. The visit is in recognition of BCCI's record of achievements and a tribute to the private sector, being the essential engine of economic development, said BCCI first deputy chairman Yusif Al Saleh.

Abbas arrives for talks

MANAMA: Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa will be at the airport today to welcome Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas who arrives at noon on a five-hour visit. He will hold talks with His Majesty King Hamad and the Premier on the Middle East peace process.

Volleyball fan jailed for attack

MANAMA: A volleyball fan was yesterday jailed for a week for assaulting a player from Al Najma team which won the Crown Prince Cup, beating Al Nasser last Friday. The enraged supporter hit Mohammed Jaafar with an iron bar as he was preparing to receive the trophy, the General Prosecution heard. The accused denied using the iron bar and claimed the player had provoked him.

Ban on women driving stays

RIYADH: Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz yesterday criticised calls to lift a ban on women drivers. He said he was surprised the matter had been raised by a member of the Shura council. "Does he understand what the priorities are? ... We consider (the question) to be secondary, not a priority," Nayef said in remarks carried by the *Saudi Press Agency*. "These matters are decided according to the general good and what is dictated by women's honour, but I urge everybody to put a stop to this and not make an issue out of it that pits one group against another," Nayef said.

ElBaradei re-appointed

VIENNA: The UN atomic agency unanimously re-appointed Mohamed ElBaradei as its chief yesterday, after Washington dropped its opposition to a man who had questioned US weapons intelligence on Iraq. The Egyptian expert said he was "humbled and awed" at his appointment by consensus to a third term as director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency and said he expected to be able to work well with the US, which has also criticised him for being too soft on Iran.

MORE POLICE



MANAMA: The Prime Minister said yesterday that it was "high time" stricter punishments were introduced to deter criminals. And he urged the recruitment of more policemen to enforce Bahrain's laws - issu-

ing directives to this effect. The Premier, Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, also instructed that priority be given in the budget to developing security and protecting citizens and property. He made his remarks when

receiving Interior Minister Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, who introduced him to newly-appointed under-secretaries and directors-general. He directed concerned authorities to hasten the promotion of due personnel in the ministry's different divisions in recognition of their good performance and to encourage them to exert further efforts.

Full report - Page 12

Saddam quizzed on massacre

BAGHDAD: An Iraqi judge has questioned Saddam Hussein about alleged revenge killings in a Shi'ite village after an attempt on his life, officials said yesterday. A film of the interrogation was released yesterday. The killings of more than 140 Shi'ite men at Dujail in 1982 pale in comparison with some of the accusations against Saddam, who appeared relaxed, if sombre, bearded and wearing a dark jacket and white shirt, as on his last appearance in July. A government source said that prosecutors believe they can build a strong test case for Saddam's personal role at Dujail, possibly based on testimony from a half-brother and the former vice-president, accelerating the trial process. Iraqi government officials have said they would like to put Saddam on trial in the next few months. But the Iraqi Special Tribunal, which released the statement yesterday, has insisted it will not be rushed. **Pullout call rejected - Page 2**



■ The various moods of Saddam during questioning at an undisclosed location

Jackson cleared of all charges



■ Jackson ... a free man

SANTA MARIA, California: A jury acquitted Michael Jackson early this morning of molesting a 13-year-old cancer survivor at his Neverland ranch, vindicating the pop star who insisted he was the victim of mother-and-son con artists and a prosecutor with a vendetta. Jurors also acquitted him of conspiring to imprison his

accuser and the boy's family at the storybook estate - a total legal victory but one that may do little to improve his bizarre image. Jackson looked straight ahead as the verdicts were read and showed no visible reaction as he was repeatedly found not guilty. The verdict - reached after

about 30 hours of deliberations over seven days - ended a star-studded, four-month trial that offered a global audience a lurid look into the weird world of Jackson and presented jurors with vastly different portraits of him: a creepy pervert who preyed on little boys, or the victim of a frame-up by mother-and-son shakedown artists.

Full report - Pages 20-21