



LOCAL AND WORLD REPORT

FOCUS ON BREAKING NEWS THIS MORNING
IN BAHRAIN AND ACROSS THE GLOBE



The Premier with board members of Al Bilad newspaper yesterday

Premier praises key role of Press

MANAMA: Bahrain's Press is playing a crucial role in the kingdom's development, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa said yesterday.

He asserted that the national media is enlightening public opinion on crucial local, regional and international issues.

"We support the national media, and its freedom, and appreciate its keenness to highlight citizens' issues and investigate valuable information in its goals and content," the Premier said.

Under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad, the kingdom has guaranteed all freedoms and paved the way for the "responsible word", which has created a fertile climate for the national Press to reach an honourable level, he said.

The Premier was speaking while receiving Al Bilad newspaper's board, led by Abdunabi Al Sho'ala. Present was journalist Sayed Ali, the winner of the Arab Journalism Award for "Investigative Reporting" at the Arab Media Forum 2018 in Dubai.

TRAGEDY

ALGIERS: Algeria suffered its deadliest ever air catastrophe yesterday when a military plane crashed after takeoff, killing 257 people on board, mostly army personnel and their family members.

A photographer at the scene saw the charred wreckage of the plane after it caught fire in a field near the Boufarik airbase, 30km south of Algiers.

Hundreds of ambulances and dozens of fire trucks with sirens wailing rushed to the scene of the crash, in an uninhabit-

ed area where one person was injured on the ground by debris.

Firemen extinguished the blaze and security forces set up a cordon to prevent journalists and onlookers from approaching.

Witnesses who had been working in nearby fields said that the plane had burst into flames before it hit the ground.

The defence ministry said in a statement that 247 passengers and 10 crew were killed without mentioning any survivors. Most of those on board were

● 257 die in Algeria plane crash

HIS Majesty King Hamad yesterday sent a cable of condolences to Algerian President Abdelaziz Boutaflika for the victims of the military plane crash.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown

Assassination plot verdict date is set

By NOOR ZAHRA

MANAMA: A verdict date has been set in the final appeal of seven Bahrainis convicted of a series of terrorist attacks and plotting to assassinate the head of the country's military.

The Bahrainis, four of whom were sentenced to death, were among 13 men found guilty of terrorism-related charges by the High Military Court on December 25.

Only seven are in custody and they appealed against their convictions at the Supreme Military Appeals Court, which in February upheld verdicts of five defendants, including those facing execution, and reduced the jail sentences of two others.

All seven filed a final appeal at the Military Cassation Court which yesterday adjourned the case to April 25 for a ruling.

Yesterday's hearing took place in a courtroom packed with members of the media, relatives of the defendants and a representative from the National Institution for Human Rights.

Hearing

Also, more than 40 law students from different universities were present.

The defendants sentenced to