

'Better, stronger and deeper'

H.E. Ambassador Steven C. Bondy highlights growing US-Bahrain relations

● Americans and their friends in Kingdom celebrate 248th Independence Day

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TDT | Manama

As the United States celebrates its 248th Independence Day, US Ambassador to Bahrain, His Excellency Steven C. Bondy, extended warm wishes to Americans in the Kingdom and the Bahraini people.

"Happy 248th anniversary of the independence of the United States from me and the team here at the American Embassy to all Americans in Bahrain and all of our friends here in this beautiful country," said Ambassador Bondy in an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune.

Ambassador Bondy emphasised the enduring strength of the US-Bahrain relationship, built on shared values and mutual respect.

"The relationship between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America just keeps getting better, strong-



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken during the CSIPA-signing ceremony in Washington on September 13, 2023

er, and deeper," he stated. "We share similar values and objectives as we navigate a challenging global environment."

Solidifying bond

The long history of American presence in Bahrain, dating back over 130 years, has played a key role in solidifying this bond.

Ambassador Bondy highlighted the lasting contributions of American missionaries who

arrived in the 1890s, establishing healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and religious centers that continue to serve the community today.

"These institutions are a testament to the strong foundation on which the US-Bahrain relationship is built," he remarked.

A significant recent development was the signing of the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agree-

ment (CSIPA) last September.

Strategic agreement

"This agreement, the most advanced written strategic agreement we have with any country in the region, rests on three pillars," Ambassador Bondy explained.

The first pillar is defense and security, where both nations share an assessment of regional threats and work together to ad-



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dress them; the second is commercial affairs, including trade, investment, supply chains, and logistics, where they collaborate to establish conditions for

increased private sector relationships; and the third pillar focuses on emerging technology, network security, and scientific cooperation.

This agreement underlines the comprehensive collaboration between governments, private sectors, and research institutions from both nations.

The CSIPA underscores the multifaceted partnership between the US and Bahrain, encompassing government collaboration, private sector engagement, and research institutions from both nations. "We anticipate universities and R&D centers will expand their work in these critical areas," Ambassador Bondy concluded.

Unity and cooperation

As the US celebrates its 248th Independence Day, Ambassador Bondy's message resonates with the spirit of unity and cooperation that defines US-Bahrain relations. This enduring partnership, built on a foundation of shared values and historical ties, continues to thrive and evolve.

With milestones like the CSIPA, both nations are poised to tackle future challenges together, fostering innovation and growth.

Importance of sunscreen use during summer

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As summer approaches and beach outings become more frequent, it's vital to prioritize the protection of our skin against the sun's harmful rays. With the increased exposure to sunlight, the risk of sunburn rises significantly.

Sunburn, characterized by red, painful, and damaged skin resulting from prolonged sun exposure, can lead to discomfort and long-term skin damage. Hence, incorporating sunscreen into your daily skincare routine is essential.

Sunscreen serves as a protective shield, creating a barrier against both UVA and UVB rays.

These rays are known culprits in causing premature aging and escalating the risk of skin cancer. Utilizing a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher is crucial in effectively blocking out these harmful rays, thereby reducing the likelihood of sunburn and skin damage.

To ensure optimal protection, here are some key tips for applying sunscreen correctly:

1. Opt for a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.

2. Choose a waterproof or water-resistant sunscreen for extended outdoor activities.

3. Apply sunscreen generously to all exposed areas of the skin, including the ears, lips, back of the neck, and tops of the feet.

4. Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before sun exposure to allow for proper absorption.

5. Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or more frequently if swimming, exercising, or sweating profusely.

In addition to sunscreen, it's important to adopt other sun safety measures:

- Seek shade during peak sun hours, typically between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun's rays are the strongest.

- Wear protective clothing, including wide-brimmed hats, lightweight long-sleeved shirts, and sunglasses with UV protection.

- Avoid the use of indoor tanning beds, as they emit harmful UV radiation that can damage the skin and increase the risk of skin cancer.

Shura Council shines in diplomacy

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The Shura Council has markedly enhanced its efforts in parliamentary diplomacy during the 2nd Convening Period of the 6th legislative term.

By actively engaging in various international forums, conferences, seminars, and meetings, the Council has participated in 63 external events, both in-person and virtual.

These engagements spanned a broad spectrum of topics, reflecting the Council's attention to significant global issues.

Discussions covered vital areas such as human rights, sustainable development, defence, national security, diplomatic affairs, family care, health services, economic and financial matters, technological advancement, energy investment, environmental preservation, and tourism.

Through these interactions, the Shura Council has sought to enhance its international standing and influence within the legislative realm.

This focus has produced notable outcomes, with several members attaining leadership roles in regional and international parliamentary bodies.

Among the achievements is the appointment of Mr. Jamal Fakhro, First Deputy Chairman of the Shura Council, as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network (NAM PN).

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