

HRH Prince Salman hails growing Bahrain-US strategic ties

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the longstanding Bahrain-US relations, which have grown over the years through close strategic multisector collaboration and partnership.

HRH Prince Salman noted the importance of building on existing bilateral cooperation and collaboration in line with mutual aspirations.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he met yesterday with the Ambassador of the US

to the Kingdom of Bahrain, HE Steven C. Bondy, at Riffa Palace.

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, also attended the meeting.

HRH Prince Salman highlighted the importance of furthering bilateral relations within the framework of historic relations and mutual agreements, including the recently signed Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA), which will further cooperation in security, military, advanced technology, trade, and investment to benefit all

HRH Prince Salman bin Ham-



HRH Prince Salman meets with HE Ambassador Bondy

ad outlined the importance of international efforts to safeguard regional security and stability, and support development, in line with the aspirations of the

people of the region and the world.

Regional and international issues, as well as developments in the Gaza Strip, were discussed.

Ceasefire

His Royal Highness stressed the importance of a ceasefire for a humanitarian truce, the

protection of innocent civilians' lives, the release of hostages and detainees, and the necessity of opening urgent, unhindered humanitarian corridors to deliver aid and assistance into the Gaza Strip.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister underlined the importance of reinforcing unified efforts to prevent the escalation of the situation and to halt violence that threatens security and stability.

He emphasised that a just and comprehensive peace is the only option to protect and realise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

New SCE directors named

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued Edict (101) of 2023, appointing directors at the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), based on a proposal by the President of the SCE.

The edict stipulates the following:

The following directors shall be appointed at the executive apparatus of the SCE:

Article (I)

1. Shaikh Mishal bin Ibrahim bin Jaber Al Khalifa shall be appointed as Director of Al Areen Wildlife Directorate.

2. Nouf Ali Abdul Mohsen Al-Wasmi shall be appointed as Director of the Reserves Directorate.

3. Amna Hamad Ali Al Romaihi shall be appointed as Director of the Communication and Environmental Awareness Directorate.

4. Maryam Mohammed Abdulla Al Ansari shall be appointed as Director of the Environmental Evaluation and Licensing Directorate.

5. Lama Abbas Al Mahroos shall be appointed as Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Protection Directorate.

6. Ali Abdulla Ali Isa shall be appointed as Director of the Biodiversity Directorate.

Article (II)

The President of the SCE shall implement the provisions of this edict, which comes into effect upon its issuance and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Stage set for Jewellery Arabia

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's jewelry enthusiasts and industry professionals are eagerly anticipating the arrival of one of the most prestigious events in the Middle East's jewelry calendar, the Jewellery Arabia.

From November 14th to November 18th, the Exhibition World Bahrain in Zallaq will be transformed into a dazzling haven for jewelry lovers, offering an unparalleled shopping experience.

Renowned as one of the largest and most established jewelry exhibitions in the region, Jewellery Arabia brings together renowned manufacturers from across the globe



Jewelry lovers will flock to the event

to showcase their latest creations.

The event promises to be a feast for the eyes, with an array of exquisitely crafted jewelry, luxurious watches, and gemstones of every imaginable size, shape, and cut.

On display are an impressive selection of watches, bracelets, earrings, and gold jewelry, and much more.

Winter season flight bookings plummet

Demand hits record low due to political scenario; hopes high for November increase

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

In the Kingdom, the winter season has always been synonymous with overseas travel to celebrate Christmas, New Year's, and relish in the joy of snowfall. However, travel agents are expressing worries due to an unusually low demand for flight bookings during this festive period.

Typically, travelers secure their flight tickets well in advance to avoid the steep prices often associated with December.

Furthermore, finding available seats becomes increasingly challenging due to high demand. Yet, this year, travel agents are noticing a significant decrease in bookings, leaving them searching for explanations.

Thaha Marzooque, the Director of Travel Knits & Vacanza, sheds light on the reasons behind the unexpected trend of low demand for winter holiday flight bookings in an interview with The Daily Tribune.

Marzooque expresses concerns regarding the lack of bookings and speculates on potential factors contributing to this decline.



Cost-friendly air travel packages await inbound and outbound tourists

Factor

One factor he highlights is the current political scenario and ongoing conflicts, which may be dissuading travelers from making holiday plans. The uncertainty surrounding these events could be a major deterrent. However, Marzooque acknowledges that the political situation alone may not provide a complete explanation, as ethnic traffic has consistently been low since September.

Marzooque further points out that popular winter holiday destinations like the UK and Turkey are also experiencing fewer bookings compared to last year. Nevertheless, he remains hopeful, stating, "We are optimistic and anticipate

an increase in bookings during the second week of November."

Despite the overall decrease in demand, specific holiday packages are being offered to take advantage of the upcoming Bahrain National Day holidays.

Packages

"Fixed departures to Azerbaijan and Turkey are available, and other travel agents are promoting packages to Georgia. Moreover, early bird discounts on National Day holiday packages to Azerbaijan are being offered, with a BD 52 discount in celebration of the 52nd Bahrain National Day," he added.

Marzooque pointed out the popularity of mini vacations during the National Day peri-



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- THAHA MARZOOQUE, THE DIRECTOR OF TRAVEL KNITS & VACANZA

od. With the three to four-day holiday provided, many people opt to extend their time off and embark on nearby country getaways.

As the travel industry grapples with the unexpected decline in winter holiday flight bookings, travel agencies and airlines are closely monitoring the situation.

There is hope that the second week of November will bring an upturn in bookings as travelers embrace the festive spirit and finally make their long-awaited travel plans.

IFAS platform to raise awareness for RHF's aid work

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The Indian Fine Arts Society, a premier organisation promoting classical Indian arts, showcased the talent of over 40 local dancers in a production titled "Manifestations".

The show, at the Regency InterContinental on November 4, was held to help raise awareness about the work of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation. Indian Ambassador H.E. Mr. Vinod Jacob and the Secretary-General of the RHF, H.E. Dr. Mustafa Al Sayed presided over the evening. Also present was the Ambassador of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mrs. Wijeratne Mendis.



Dr. Al Sayed (sixth from left) receiving donation to RHF in the presence of diplomats and IFAS members

Choreographed by Bharatanatyam exponent Mrs. Hansul Gani with collaborative inputs from experts in the US and Kerala, India, the production explored the mystic connection between life on earth and the five

sacred elements: Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space. With stunning costumes, vivid backdrop and specially composed music score, the production was a treat for art lovers.

Commendation

In his address, Dr. Al Sayed commended the Indian community's response to the work of the RHF, saying that Indians

in Bahrain had time and again supported the RHF's aid drive for natural disasters.

"The Indians in Bahrain have always aligned their compassion with the example of His Majesty the King whose vision empow-

ers the RHF," Dr. Al Sayed said, "Today our timely and first-to-support response to any humanitarian crisis has brought admiration to the RHF and the organisation is ranked No. 11 in the Arab world for its effectiveness. With His Majesty's leadership as our guiding light, we have helped rebuild churches, schools and also helped support refugee camps all over the world, without discrimination and in keeping with the One-Family Spirit of Bahrain."

He added, "I am particularly happy that this program by IFAS to raise awareness for our work comes through art."