

Maintaining security, stability 'top priority'

HRH Prince Salman briefed on BDF's initiatives to enhance combat readiness efficiency



HRH Prince Salman arrives for a meeting with senior BDF officials

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, received a comprehensive briefing on the Bahrain Defence Force's current and future development plans and programmes aimed at bolstering combat readiness efficiency.

This came as HRH Prince Salman yesterday visited the BDF General Command, accompanied by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



His Royal Highness was received by the Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, His Excellency Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Defence Affairs, HE Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, and

the BDF Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al-Nuaimi, and several senior officials. During the visit, the Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces commended the continuous development, effi-

ciency, and combat readiness of the BDF, thanks to the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

commend their domestic and international efforts, which are appreciated by all. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended the prominent role of the BDF, alongside allied countries, in ensuring the security, stability, and development of the region. He expressed his appreciation to the members of the BDF for their efforts in performing their national duty with courage and loyalty, wishing everyone continued success.

National duty

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad affirmed that the BDF personnel bravely carry out their national duty of protecting the Kingdom's interests and sovereignty with the utmost dedication and determination,

commend their domestic and international efforts, which are appreciated by all.

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Khalid bin Hamad competition winners for innovation in AI are honoured

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The curtain has fallen on the fourth edition of the "Khalid bin Hamad Competition for Innovation in Artificial Intelligence", themed "A Resilient Future: Innovation for Water, Energy and Climate". The closing ceremony was held at the campus of the Bahrain Polytechnic yesterday.

Held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, the competition is organised by the Bahrain Polytechnic, in cooperation with HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad's Media Office and the Information and e-Government Authority (iGA).

The competition, which is part of HH Shaikh Khalid's scientific and humanitarian initiatives, is sponsored by Microsoft, Almoayyed Computers Middle East (ACME), Hope Talents (the talent management arm of Hope Fund) and Noventiq Company.

Bahrain, US hold Strategic Dialogue mid-year review

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The Embassy of Bahrain in the US and the US Embassy in the kingdom held a mid-year review of the Strategic Dialogue between the two countries.

The review, conducted in an online meeting, assessed the outcome of the Strategic Dialogue since its last session in July and discussed cooperation mechanisms to be set up ahead of next year's session.

His Excellency Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Ambassador to Washington, and H.E. Steven Bondy, the US Ambassador in Bahrain, co-chaired the meeting.

The meeting discussed bilateral cooperation, including in security, economic, culture, education and tourism sectors. It also discussed the completion of procedures to launch direct flights between the two countries, as well as cooperation in combatting human trafficking,



Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid and Ambassador Bondy co-chair the online meeting

which contributed to earning Bahrain a Tier 1 ranking for the sixth consecutive year in the State Department's Trafficking in Persons report.

Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah underscored the importance of this collaborative effort, which reflects the commitment of both countries to further consolidating diplomatic communication to achieve mutual priorities.

Speaking during the meeting which also discussed region-

and international developments, the ambassador reiterated Bahrain's stance in support of a ceasefire in Gaza, humanitarian relief efforts, de-escalation and protection of civilians.

Ambassador Bondy commended the strategic relations between the US and Bahrain and its positive impact on regional security and stability. He praised the relief efforts conducted by Bahrain in Gaza, represented by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF).

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Parliamentary delegation visit



Council of Representatives Speaker, His Excellency Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam and Shura Council Chairman, H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al Salehi, and members of the parliamentary delegation visited the Bahraini pavilion in Expo City Dubai, as part of the International Parliamentary meeting, at the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28). The delegation commended the Bahraini efforts at the exhibition, which reflect Bahrain's commitment to environmental security, climate and environmental issues, and support international efforts to combat climate change challenges. They commended the royal directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on the implementation of the National Action Plan, "Blueprint Bahrain" to achieve carbon neutrality, and the \$750 million technology fund, as well as the "Safaa" platform.