

Bahrain's Al Ahli win thriller in Gulf handball

Anwar bin Abdulla scores decisive goal against Al Safa of Saudi Arabia in tight Group B contest | P12

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HM King HRH CP, PM congratulate Nepal's new president



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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister congratulated Ram Chandra Poudel, following his election as President of Nepal.

HM King and HRH CP, PM wished Poudel all success in carrying out his duties to achieve the aspirations of the friendly Nepalese people for more progress and prosperity.

Iran says deal reached to buy Russian fighter jets



Sukhoi Su-35 jet fighter drives along the airfield during International military-technical forum

Tehran, Iran

Iran has finalised a deal to buy Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, state media reported, as defence co-operation between the two countries deepens.

In a statement to the United Nations, Tehran said it began approaching "countries to buy fighter jets" to replenish its fleet in the wake of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

"Russia announced it was ready to sell them" after the expiry in October 2020 of restrictions on Iran purchasing conventional weapons under UN Resolution 2231, said the statement carried late Friday by the official IRNA news agency.

"The Sukhoi 35 fighter jets were technically acceptable for Iran," it added.

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Participants of the Inter-Parliamentary Union during a family photo yesterday

Global meeting of minds

Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid opens the 146th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly

● **HM the King patronised the event**

● **146th Assembly General Debate will focus on "Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance"**

● **Meetings to continue until Wednesday**

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Over 1,700 parliamentarians from around the globe witnessed yesterday as the Kingdom kick-started proceedings of the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at the Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB) in Sakhir.

The event began with a welcoming speech on behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa by Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister.

In the inaugural address, Shaikh Khalid reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to join efforts and improve global security, stability and peace, terming the 146th IPU



We look forward to your Assembly and related meetings in Bahrain to reach a consensus on decisions that enhance the spirit of tolerance and peaceful coexistence, deepen international partnerships in achieving security and peace, ending wars and crises

SHAIKH KHALID BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA



as a "global meeting of minds". The event, he said, reflects the confidence of the international community in Bahrain's ability to host high-profile diplomatic events.

Drawing attention towards the "exceptional circumstance" the world is enduring, Shaikh Khalid urged joint actions and

diplomacy to settle disputes for just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

The Deputy Prime Minister further stressed the need to encourage international humanitarian action and reiterated call to criminalise religious, sectarian and racist hate speech in all its forms.

The opening ceremony was in the presence of IPU President Duarte Pacheco, IPU Secretary-General Martin Chungong, Speaker of the Council of Representatives Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam and Chairman of the Shura Council Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh.

Ahmed Al Musallam, Speaker, in his address, reviewed the democratic experience of Bahrain, which extends over 100 years since the first municipal elections in 1912.

He also reviewed the Kingdom's experience of tolerance and coexistence, which has its roots dating back thousands of years.

Shaikha Haya Al Khalifa, a

member of the Council of Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly, told the participants that the world needs people like you to help raise voices on tolerance, coexistence and peace.

She stressed the need for resolving disputes through negotiation and helping people to live freely and equally with security.

Shaikha Haya further expressed concern about the increasing amount of hatred in society, particularly in the context of social media. She emphasized the importance of fostering a new culture that promotes tolerance and modern scientific knowledge and provides hope for future generations.

Numerous speeches were delivered during the ceremony, including a significant one by United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, which was recorded in a video format.

Parliamentary committees had started their meetings early morning yesterday ahead of the official opening ceremony held in the evening.

This year, the IPU membership is expected to increase to 179 with the readmission of Liberia, a founding member of the IPU in 1889 whose membership lapsed in 2011.



Held in Bahrain for the first time since the IPU was founded more than 133 years ago, the meeting will run until Wednesday on the theme "Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance".

For global peace

Bahrain positive example to emulate, says Pacheco

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Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has called on the global community to prioritise peaceful co-existence and used Bahrain as a positive example to emulate.

"We are in a country that shows to the world that people from different cultures, and religions, can live together in a peaceful society and in perfect coexistence. What we find here is what we should have in other countries of our world - Peaceful coexistence," Pacheco said at a press conference following the opening of the IPU 146th



The opening press conference of the 146th IPU Assembly

Assembly and related meetings in Bahrain.

Jamal Fakhro, First Vice-Chairman of the Bahrain Shura Council, and other top officials were also present.

Pacheco expressed his delight in being present at the IPU 146th Assembly in Manama, stating, "As the President of IPU, I am

thrilled to be here."

He noted that global problems require global solutions, as no single country can solve them alone, citing examples such as terrorism and poverty.

"That's why 1,000 parliamentarians from so many countries are here with all the staff and experts who come with them."

According to Pacheco, the world united to combat the recent pandemic, with scientists from various cultures and countries collaborating and successfully developing vaccines in record time.

However, he lamented that the world failed to learn from this experience, as numerous

conflicts continue to persist globally.

Expressing his gratitude towards Bahrain for organising the event, Pacheco stated that he was at a loss for words to convey his appreciation.

Pacheco mentioned that Bahrain is the most progressive nation in the region regarding gender equality.

The Secretary-General future made an official request to Bahraini officials to host the "2024 E-Parliamentary Meeting" in Manama.

In response, Fakhro expressed his commitment to fulfilling the IPU's request.