

Bahrain name fullstrength handball squad

Kingdom's senior men's national team eye handball gold at 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China | P12

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HM King hails HRH Prince Salman's successful US visit

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa commended the fruitful and constructive efforts exerted by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to ensure the success of his recent US visit.

This came as HM the King, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and President of the Supreme Defence Council, chaired the SDC meeting, attended by HRH Prince Salman, the Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, at Al Sakhir Palace yesterday.

The SDC reviewed the fruitful outcomes of HRH the Crown



HM the King with HRH Prince Salman

Prince and Prime Minister's successful official visit to the US, which featured the signing the Comprehensive Security Inte-

gration and Prosperity Agreement between the two countries. The Bahrain-US pact aims to enhance the long-standing

cooperation between the two friendly countries towards more unprecedented levels of bilateral integration in the security, military, modern technology, trade and investments fields. It also contributes to strengthening the security and economic systems between the two countries and region, which will open up wider horizons for development.

Humanitarian contributions

HM King Hamad also praised the continuous humanitarian contributions of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, led by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM

the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, citing the RHF's provision of urgent relief aid to those affected by the earthquake and floods in Morocco and Libya, respectively, expressing pride in all those who contributed to the relief operations and ensured their success.

HM the King also paid tribute to the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), the National Guard and the Interior Ministry for their tireless efforts and constant keenness to carry out their patriotic duties with unrelenting courage and determination to safeguard the homeland and defend its gains and the security of its citizens.

HRH Princess Sabeeka congratulates HH Shaikha Hessa
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Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), sent a cable of congratulations to Her Highness Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Member, INJAZ Bahrain Board of Directors Chairperson, for receiving the Social Work Pioneer Medal from the Ministers of Social Affairs and Social Development of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.
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Saudi's Uruq Bani Ma'arid Reserve enters World Heritage List
Dubai

Saudi Arabia's Uruq Bani Ma'arid Reserve has officially been added to the Unesco World Heritage List, it was announced yesterday. This marks the Kingdom's first Unesco Natural Heritage Site on the list.

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US affirms enduring presence in Mideast

New agreement deepens US-Bahrain ties, signals US commitment to region

● This is a big step, but it's just the first step, says US Ambassador Bondy

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA) between the United States and Bahrain is a sign that the US is committed to an enduring presence in the region.

US Ambassador to Bahrain Steven C. Bondy made these remarks at a press conference held yesterday at the US Embassy in Manama to highlight the importance of the C-SIPA agreement, which was signed on September 13-14, 2023.

"This agreement, to me, should cement in the minds of the people and the governments of the region that the United States will have an enduring presence here," Bondy said during a press conference Q&A session.



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken sign the C-SIPA at Washington DC

"We do not accept the idea that we are leaving. And this agreement should stand as proof that the United States will remain in the region for a long time to come."

Open for others

The agreement formalises cooperation to deter conflict in the region, enhance regional

stability, de-escalate tensions, and bolster trade and economic cooperation.

In such a backdrop, Ambassador Bondy also said that the C-SIPA is open to other countries joining.

"That is absolutely our hope and it is our expectation as well," he said. "And that is why it is necessary at this time for my government, for the Bahraini gov-

ernment to show the benefit."

Ambassador Bondy also highlighted that the US government is not pushing towards the agreement, but rather the agreement itself is pulling in other friendly countries.

Legal background

During the press conference, it was highlighted that the C-SIPA

The agreement is a manifestation of the US and Bahrain working together in favor of peace and prosperity in their two countries and the region.

PA between the US and Bahrain is legally binding and has no time frame.

"From the United States' point of view, this is a binding executive agreement," Bondy said. "And those words that I just used were carefully reviewed, and our legal advisors said, 'Yes, indeed, that is the nature of the agreement. So it will have an enduring length of time. In fact, there is no end point in this agreement.'"

(Continued on Page 2)



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