

“Made in the Gulf”

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have made notable progress in advancing industrial cooperation, including strengthening industrial integration, aligning policies and strategies, and supporting supply chains, officials said on Thursday.

Bahrain's Minister of Industry and Commerce, Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, who chairs the current session, highlighted these developments during the 56th meeting of the GCC Industrial Cooperation Committee.

GCC Secretary-General Jaseem Mohamed Albudaiwi opened the meeting by expressing appreciation to Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the kingdom's support in facilitating GCC initiatives and advancing joint Gulf action across sectors.

Albudaiwi said the committee plays a central role in coordinating industrial policies among



member states, unifying efforts to achieve deeper industrial integration, and enhancing the global competitiveness of the Gulf's industrial sector.

He added that the sector's growing capabilities are helping

expand international partnerships and strengthen the GCC's position in the global industrial economy.

The Secretary-General also welcomed the Supreme Council's approval, during its 46th

session in December 2025, of a proposal to hold the “Made in the Gulf” forum and exhibition in October 2026, aimed at showcasing the region's industrial capabilities and boosting integration.

Doha slams Israel over “freedom flotilla” incident



Qatar condemned Israeli aggression against a Global Freedom Flotilla, calling the incident a “flagrant violation” of international law and maritime security.

In a statement, the Qatari foreign ministry said the move was an extension of Israel's ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip, which it described as unjust.

The ministry warned that

closure of border crossings and obstruction of humanitarian aid, would further worsen the already dire humanitarian situation in the Palestinian territories, particularly in Gaza.

It also accused Israel of using food as a weapon against civilians.

Qatar urged the international community to take a firm stance to pressure Israel to open crossings, lift restrictions on aid deliveries, and ensure protection for Palestinians.

Kuwait warns against weaponising vital sea lanes

Kuwait rejected any Iranian move to close or obstruct the Strait of Hormuz, warning that international waterways must not be used as “tools of coercion,” according to its UN envoy.

Speaking before a UN Security Council high-level session on maritime security, Kuwait's Permanent Representative Tareq Albanai said the strategic waterway is a “vital artery” for global trade and must remain open to international navigation.

He stressed that maritime security is a shared international responsibility, adding that any disruption to shipping routes

would pose a direct threat to global peace, security, and economic stability.

Albanai reaffirmed that freedom of navigation is a binding obligation under international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

He also urged the Security Council to take “firm and practical measures” to protect maritime routes and hold accountable those who threaten them, reiterating Kuwait's commitment to a unified Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) position grounded in respect for sovereignty, good neighbourly relations, and diplomacy.



Peace advocacy

Oman's Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi met with the Vatican's ambassador to the sultanate, Nicholas Henry Tivin, to discuss bilateral ties and interfaith dialogue, officials said.

The talks, held at the Foreign Ministry's General Diwan, focused on relations between Oman and the Holy See, as well as efforts to promote understanding among religions and cultures based on respect and tolerance.

Busaidi praised recent statements by Pope Leo XIV calling for justice, peace, an end to wars and the rejection of violence, stressing the importance of dialogue and peaceful solutions to global conflicts.

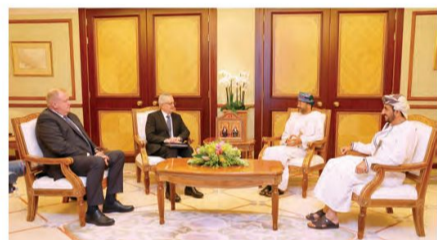
The Vatican envoy, in



turn, commended Oman's “balanced and wise” foreign policy, highlighting its role in fostering dialogue, containing crises and advancing humanitarian efforts.

Senior officials from both sides attended the meeting, including the head of the Foreign Ministry's Europe department.

Oman, Russia pledge deeper cooperation



Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi met Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Borisov in Muscat, reaffirming both countries' commitment to expanding bilateral cooperation.

The two sides reviewed progress in relations following Sultan Haitham bin Tariq's landmark visit to Russia last year. They discussed strengthening cooperation in key sectors including trade, investment, energy, transport, tourism, as well as cultural, scientific and technical fields, according to

Oman's Foreign Ministry. Both officials also exchanged views on regional and international developments, stressing the importance of intensified consultations, adherence to international law, and a continued reliance on dialogue and diplomacy to address global challenges and promote stability.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from both sides, including Oman's Undersecretary for Political Affairs Sheikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Harthy and Russia's Ambassador to Oman Oleg Levitin.

Pakistan-Saudi Ties



Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy, met Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad to discuss recent regional developments.

According to a statement, the two sides reviewed the evolving situation in the region and exchanged views on promoting stability through dialogue and engagement.

Dar underscored the importance of diplomatic engagement between relevant parties to maintain peace and stability, while expressing appreciation for Saudi Arabia's continued support and cooperation with Pakistan.

Both officials reaffirmed the “deep-rooted and fraternal” relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, highlighting continued coordination on matters of mutual interest.

Canadian PM adviser in Abu Dhabi talks

Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs, received Scott Gilmore, Senior Advisor to the Canadian Prime Minister for Foreign Policy,

Defence and Security Affairs,

The two sides reviewed the latest regional developments and the overall situation in the Middle East, and discussed



ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and partnership between the United Arab Emirates and Canada across various sectors, according to an official statement.

Red Sea operations



USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) continues to conduct routine flight operations while sailing in the Red Sea.