

Parliament leaders hail King’s Gulf security vision

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa’s address during the joint Bahrain Shield military exercise reaffirmed Bahrain’s commitment to Gulf security, collective defence and regional stability, parliamentary leaders said.

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh said the King’s speech reflected a strategic vision centred on stronger GCC military cooperation, regional unity and good neighbourly relations. He said the address also underscored the importance of respecting state sovereignty, international law



Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh



Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam

and non-interference, while tackling shared challenges. Speaker of the Council of

Representatives Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam said the King’s participation in the exercise sent a clear message that Gulf security is indivisible and that GCC nations stand united. He said the speech highlighted the importance of joint deterrence and reassured Bahrainis of the Kingdom’s strong security framework backed by Gulf partners and international allies.

Both leaders praised the Bahrain Shield exercise, saying it showcased the professionalism, readiness and defence integration of Gulf armed forces while reinforcing regional security cooperation.

Women’s growing influence in economy hailed



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The expanding role of Bahraini women in the national economy reflects the success of Bahrain’s development vision, Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said as he received author and banker Noura Mohammed Al Faihani.

Al Faihani presented the minister with a copy of her book, Bahraini Women and the National Economy: From Empowerment to Influence in the Era of His Majesty the King. The minister said women’s

progress has been driven by the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and the initiatives of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women.

He praised the book for documenting Bahraini women’s contributions to the national economy, while Al Faihani highlighted the importance of preserving these achievements for future generations.

Khalas dates lead the summer fruit rush

Mohammed Darwish
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The prized khalas date has reached Bahrain’s markets at BD2.5 a kilogramme, marking the next stage of the Kingdom’s date season as traders expect prices to ease with the arrival of larger harvests through August.

The first batches are being sold alongside khunaizi dates at BD2 a kilogramme and ghurra at BD1. Khalas dates typically appear after the first week of July and peak the following month, with each variety ripening in succession rather than all at once.

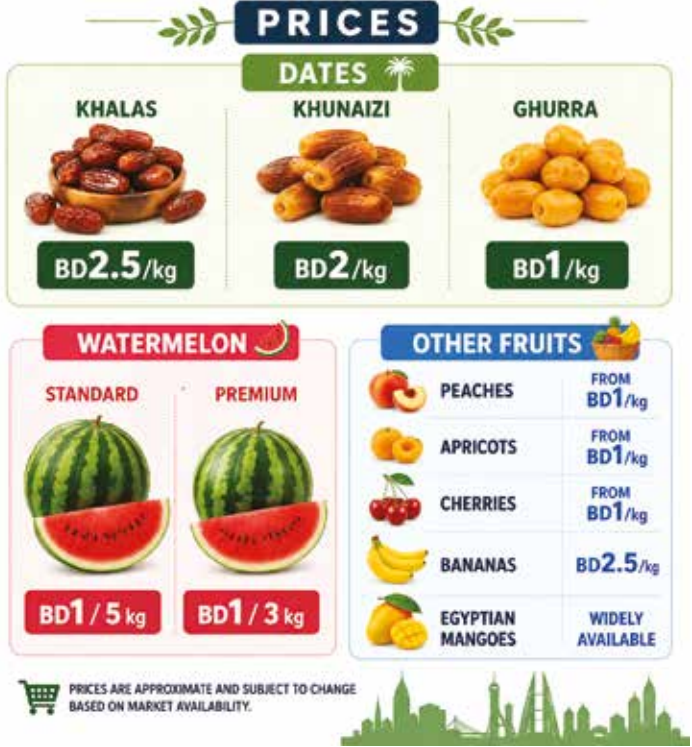
Fruit stalls are also well stocked with watermelon, peaches, apricots, cherries, melons and mangoes as demand rises for refreshing summer produce.

Watermelon continues to dominate sales.

Sayed Jaffar Salman, owner of Al Sada fruit and vegetable stall, said Jordanian watermelons remained the top choice among Bahraini shoppers, while Omani and, at times, Yemeni fruit was also available.

Standard watermelons sell at about BD1 for five kilogrammes, while premium fruit is priced at three kilogrammes for BD1.

Mr Salman said flat peaches, white peaches, Syrian cherries and melons were also selling well. Yellow watermelon, once popular, has largely disappeared from shop fronts as shoppers returned to the sweeter red variety.



Peaches, apricots and cherries start at BD1 a kilogramme, bananas cost about BD2.5, while Egyptian mangoes are widely available. Seller Habib Al Baqali said shops were also stocking apricots, peaches, cherries, nectar-

ines and mangoes from India, Pakistan, Egypt and Bahrain.

Traders expect date prices to soften as supplies increase over the coming weeks, while watermelon continues to hold its place as Bahrain’s favourite summer fruit.

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Khalas dates are prized for their naturally rich, caramel-like flavour and melt-in-the-mouth texture, making them one of the Gulf’s most popular date varieties.

Khalas dates are often described as the “king of fresh dates” because they can be enjoyed both fresh (rutab stage) and fully dried without losing their rich flavour.



Bahrain, UK review security ties and regional challenges

● **Ministers discuss Strait of Hormuz, Iran, strategic cooperation and UN coordination**

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Bahrain and the United Kingdom have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening security and strategic cooperation during talks in London that focused on regional tensions, the Strait of Hormuz and collaboration at the United Nations Security Council.

Foreign Minister Dr Abdullahatif bin Rashid Al Zayani met UK Foreign Secretary for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs Ed Miliband at the Foreign Office on Thursday.

The ministers reviewed progress under the Comprehensive Security Integration and

Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA), discussed the outcomes of the Bahrain-UK Strategic Dialogue and explored ways to expand cooperation through existing agreements and memoranda of understanding.

Regional developments featured prominently in the discussions, including the impact of recent Iranian attacks on Bahrain and other countries in the region, as well as the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and its implications for maritime navigation, international trade and the global economy.

Miliband reiterated the UK’s solidarity with Bahrain over the Iranian attacks and expressed support for the Kingdom’s efforts to safeguard its security and stability.

The ministers also exchanged views on strengthening Bahrain-UK coordination during Bahrain’s membership of the United Nations Security Council on issues before the Council.

Isa Town intersection to fully open before new school term

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

With the new school term approaching, the Isa Town Northern Intersection will be fully open by the end of August, nearly doubling its daily traffic capacity from 12,000 to 22,500 vehicles.

Southern Municipal Council member Abdullah Darraj said the contractor had confirmed the deadline for the remaining works. He said completing the



project before schools reopen would ease congestion and reduce pressure on surrounding roads as students, teachers and school staff return for the new term.

The main flyover, which opened last week, carries three lanes in each direction over the junction of Shaikh Salman Avenue with Amman Avenue and Salmabad Avenue, allowing uninterrupted traffic flow along Shaikh Salman Avenue. Traffic lights at ground level will con-

tinue to manage vehicles travelling between Salmabad Avenue and Amman Avenue.

The project strengthens links between Isa Town and neighbouring areas including Riffa, A’ali, Sanad and Salmabad. Shaikh Salman Avenue also serves as a key route connecting the Capital and Northern governorates with the Southern Governorate.

Darraj said the partial opening had already eased congestion at nearby junctions and

roads. Bringing the entire project into operation before the school year begins, he added, would give motorists time to familiarise themselves with the new road layout before traffic volumes increase.

The remaining works include drainage, paving, pavements, landscaping and road safety improvements. The project is being carried out by a consortium of Alghanim International and Almoayyed Contracting.