

**Riffa outclass
Budaia in football
league**

Bahrain internationals Jassim Al Shaikh, Mohammed Jassim Marhoon both on target for defending champions in 2022/2023 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League | P12

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THE DAILY **tribune**



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Saudi Arabia signs MOU with Spanish company to build combat ships



Saudi warships are seen during Gulf Shield 1 exercise

TDT | agencies

Saudi Arabia's defence ministry signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Spanish state-owned Navantia company on Wednesday to build multi-mission combat ships for the Saudi Navy, the Saudi state news agency (SPA) reported yesterday.

"The MoU aims to raise the level of readiness of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces to enhance maritime security in the region, and protect the vital and strategic interests of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia", it said.

According to the agreement, the Spanish company "would localize up to 100% of naval shipbuilding, integration of combat systems, and ship maintenance, in line with the Kingdom's objectives and Vision 2030."

The signing ceremony was attended by Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman and Spanish Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism María Reyes Maroto.

Islamic State names new leader after Quraishi blew himself up

Reuters | Amman

The Islamic State (IS) militant group has appointed a previously unknown figure as its head after its leader blew himself up in October while being besieged by former anti-government rebels in southern Syria, those involved in the clash said.

IS selected Abu al-Hussein al-Husseini al-Quraishi as its new leader, a spokesman for the group said in a recording. He did not offer further details on the new leader.

It was both the first time IS's top leader was killed in an operation that did not involve the U.S.-led coalition, and the first time an IS leader was killed in southern Syria, rather than the north.

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Bahrain - UAE ties strong, growing: HM King, HRH CP, PM

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday congratulated the rulers of the United Arab Emirates on 51st National Day, expressing pride in the deep-rooted fraternal ties bonding Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

HM King said Bahrain is keen to strengthen and develop these strong ties laid by the rulers and



Shaikh Nahyan



HM King



HRH Prince Salman

people of both kingdoms.

"These ties are instrumental in achieving the common interest of the people of both Kingdoms and bringing prosperity to all," said HM King, praising

the depth of the fraternal relations and their development and growth in various fields.

HM King wished His Highness Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan lasting good health and

happiness and the Emirati people further progress and prosperity. In a similar message, HRH Prince Salman expressed pride in the fraternal relations that unite the two countries and the two brotherly peoples, congratulating UAE and its people. The statement also highlighted the strength of longstanding Bahrain-UAE relations.

His Majesty and HRH Prince Salman also sent similar cables to the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. Separately, Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal and Shura Council Chairman, Ali bin Saleh Al-Saleh, hailed the Bahrain and UAE tie in all fields in a message to Saqr Ghobash, Speaker of the Federal National Council (FNC).

Zainal and Al-Saleh sent similar cables to UAE Ambassador to Bahrain, Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and wished the UAE leadership and people further progress and prosperity.

Bahrain 'vital partner' in security, trade: Chollet

US State Department Counselor praises longstanding ties between the US and Bahrain

● US has no plans to take a U-turn from its Mideast policy

● We will continue to have a robust presence in the region

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The Kingdom occupies a prominent position in the US foreign policy as it remains a vital partner in a multitude of spheres encompassing security, trade, education and other areas, said US State Department Counselor Derek Chollet.

Mr Chollet was speaking to a group of reporters representing the Kingdom's various news outlets at the US Embassy when he made this remark. "The US will function as a strong partner with Bahrain in confronting the external threats. The crucial step taken by Bahrain, other Arab states and Israel by signing Abraham Accords along



Saudi Arabia plans to host a Chinese-Arab summit on Dec. 9 attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping during his visit to the kingdom. Xi is scheduled to arrive in Riyadh on Dec. 7. Invitations have gone out to leaders in the Middle East and North Africa for the Chinese-Arab gathering.

with the Negev Forum is a great milestone in the history of the Mideast."

Mr Chollet hailed the Kingdom's leadership and government for successfully holding the parliament and municipal council elections. He said the people-to-people relationship has been one of the most important pillars of the bilateral ties between the US and Bahrain.

He said the US has no plans to take a U-turn from its Mideast policy, terming such narratives as unsubstantiated. "We are here in a significant way not only in defence but also in other

China can't provide the kind of regional security architecture, which the US is building for the Mideast region

US STATE DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR
DEREK CHOLLET

are many areas where there are differences, on the other hand, we hope to work with them over many issues, for instance, global warming."

When asked about the upcoming Arab-China summit in Saudi Arabia, Mr Chollet said China can't provide the kind of regional security architecture, which the US is building for the Mideast region.

Mr Chollet said the Iranian role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict is a matter of grave concern. "Russia has invaded a sovereign nation and they want to make Ukraine a cold and dark place. All of their targets are civilians and see the way Russians are destroying Ukraine's power grid."

Earlier yesterday, National Security Adviser and Royal Guard Commander, Major-General HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa received Mr Derek. HH Shaikh Nasser praised the level of cooperation between Bahrain and the US and affirmed the effectiveness of the strategic partnership as well as commitment to consolidating the foundations of security and peace in the region.

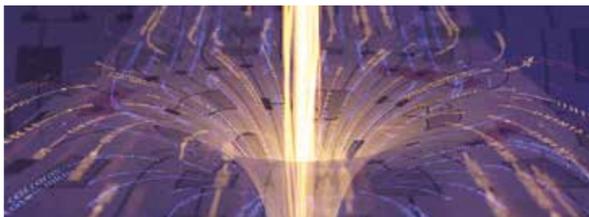
Time travel a reality!

Scientists build 'baby' wormhole as sci-fi moves closer to fact

Reuters | Washington

In science fiction - think films and TV like "Interstellar" and "Star Trek" - wormholes in the cosmos serve as portals through space and time for spacecraft to traverse unimaginable distances with ease. If only it were that simple.

Scientists have long pursued a deeper understanding of wormholes and now appear to



Artwork provided by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena be making progress. Researchers announced on Wednesday that they forged two minuscule simulated black holes - those

extraordinarily dense celestial objects with gravity so powerful that not even light can escape - in a quantum computer and transmitted a message between them through what amounted to a tunnel in space-time.

It was a "baby wormhole," according to Caltech physicist Maria Spiropulu, a co-author of the research published in the journal Nature. But scientists

are a long way from being able to send people or other living beings through such a portal, she said.

"Experimentally, for me, I will tell you that it's very, very far away. People come to me and they ask me, 'Can you put your dog in the wormhole?' So, no," Spiropulu told reporters during a video briefing. "...That's a huge leap."