

Stability fuels growth

Manama

Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, affirmed that the directives of His Majesty Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa reflect a firm national stance aimed at safeguarding the security and stability of the Kingdom of Bahrain and preserving its national unity against all threats targeting the nation and its achievements.

He noted that His Majesty's emphasis on the importance of national unity, strengthening awareness of responsibility, and standing united behind the kingdom and its wise leadership represents a well-established approach that places Bahrain's security and stability at the forefront of priorities. He also highlighted His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's, continuous follow-up to implement the Royal directives



Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry

and translate them into initiatives and policies that support national security, stability, and sustainable development.

Kanoo explained that Bahrain's security and stability are the fundamental pillars of economic development, continued growth, investor confidence,

and a strong business environment. He stressed that the Bahraini private sector stands firmly in support of all national efforts and measures aimed at protecting the nation and preserving its stability and unity.

He added that the Chamber fully supports all efforts that

reinforce security and stability and confront anything that may threaten national security or undermine unity and cohesion, thereby preserving Bahrain's achievements and enhancing its position as a regional model of stability and development.

Kanoo also praised the national foundations established by His Majesty the King, which have strengthened Bahrain's regional and international standing, as well as the ongoing efforts led by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to drive economic development and improve government performance. He emphasized that Bahrain's strength will always lie in the unity of its people and their solidarity with their wise leadership.

He concluded by praying to Almighty God to protect the Kingdom of Bahrain, its leadership, and its people, and to grant it continued security, stability, and prosperity.

Unity secures future

Manama

Khalid Ali Al Ameen, a member of the Bahrain Economic Development Board, underscored that national unity under the leadership of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa remains a key pillar in strengthening security and stability in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Al Ameen said the cohesion between leadership and citizens reflects a high level of national awareness and a shared commitment to safeguarding the country's achievements while advancing comprehensive development. He noted that unity is essential in addressing security challenges and reinforcing national sovereignty, particularly amid ongoing regional changes.

He added that Bahrain continues to maintain a balanced approach between security and development, supporting economic initiatives and enhancing the investment climate to ensure sustainable stability and create opportunities



Development and security go hand in hand under wise leadership

KHALID ALI AL AMEEN, MEMBER-BAHRAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

for future generations.

Al Ameen concluded that strong solidarity between the leadership and the people will remain the foundation for continued progress and prosperity, enabling the nation to confront challenges with a responsible national spirit.

Spirit Airlines begins 'wind-down', cancels all flights



Spirit Airlines jets sit on the tarmac as operations ceased for the company at Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts

AFP | Washington

Low-cost US carrier Spirit Airlines said yesterday that all of its flights have been cancelled as it started an "orderly wind-down of operations," citing spiking fuel prices in recent weeks as a key factor.

The troubled carrier, which was looking to emerge from its second bankruptcy in a year, announced it was ceasing operations after a potential White House bailout fell through.

Spirit Airlines' parent company, Spirit Aviation Holdings, said in an early yesterday press release that it has "started an orderly wind-down of operations, effective immediately."

"All Spirit flights have been cancelled, and Spirit Guests should not go to the airport," said the company.

US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy scrambled to defend the Trump administration's position as a rescue plan that was said to be in the works never materialized.

"The President was like a dog on a bone trying to figure out a way to keep Spirit afloat," Duffy said in a morning press conference at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey.

"In the end, this was a creditor issue. Again, they have the final say of whether they want to do a deal with the government," he said. "But also from



the government's perspective, we oftentimes don't have a half a billion dollars laying around in a spare account that we can put into a bailout of an airline."

Spirit, which launched over 30 years ago with its bargain no-frills offering that put pressure on larger airlines, was the ninth-largest US carrier by passenger count as of December 2025, according to the Department of Transportation.

The company's webpage displayed a message telling guests that "customer service is no longer available." The airline said it will process refunds for purchased flights.

Jet fuel prices have more than doubled since the conflict with Iran began in February, prompting major US airlines to lower their profit forecasts, trim back on capacity growth plans or both.

Banking sector pledges full support to leadership

Manama

The Bahrain Banks Association has stressed that the Kingdom's security, stability, and sovereignty remain firm national constants, underscoring unified support from the banking sector behind the country's leadership.

In a statement, the association said remarks by HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa clearly reflect a steadfast national approach, affirming that safeguarding Bahrain's security and protecting its sovereignty are non-negotiable priorities. It added that the Kingdom is addressing challenges with a firm strategy, particularly in light of what it described as Iranian aggression targeting national security.

Chairman Yasser Al-Sharifi said the King's statements highlight the importance of unity across all segments of society, noting that any actions under-



mining national security or loyalty to the Kingdom are unacceptable and cannot be justified.

He reaffirmed the banking sector's full support for the leadership's position, stressing its continued commitment to strengthening the national economy and maintaining financial stability under the supervision of the Central Bank of Bahrain. He added that the



sector remains dedicated to ensuring uninterrupted financial services and system efficiency under all circumstances.

Al-Sharifi emphasized that Bahrain's strength lies in the unity of its people and their alignment with the leadership, renewing loyalty to the King and support for the directives of Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in safeguarding national security

and advancing development.

Chief Executive Officer Zeba Majid Askari described the King's remarks as firm and reflective of a national stance that places the country's interests above all else. She said citizenship represents a binding commitment that must not be compromised.

Askari added that the King's condemnation of Iranian aggression demonstrates a clear approach to protecting national sovereignty, highlighting that public awareness and responsibility among Bahrainis remain key pillars in confronting challenges.

She concluded by reaffirming the banking sector's resilience and readiness to support economic stability, ensuring the continuity of financial services while renewing full loyalty to the Kingdom's leadership and its vision for sustained growth and prosperity.

Korean Air bans roosters on US-Philippine routes amid cockfighting outcry

AFP | Manila

Animal rights advocates were crowing yesterday after Korean Air banned transporting roosters on flights from the United States to the Philippines, which has a huge cockfighting industry.

Filipinos wager tens of millions of dollars daily by some industry estimates as they watch two roosters armed with metal spurs fight to the death in clashes that can end in less than a minute.

The United States is an important source of roosters for these fights, according to activists as well as local breeder Eduardo Eugenio, who told AFP shutting



down US imports would have a "huge impact".

The South Korean carrier

er said in a statement yesterday that it had "suspended the transportation of roost-

ers of all ages on routes from the United States to the Philippines".

"Korean Air is committed to the lawful and safe transport of live animals, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations," it added.

US campaigner Animal Wellness Action said Korean Air was "in our estimation, the biggest global air carrier of illegally trafficked fighting birds".

The company did not specifically mention cockfighting roosters in its statement, but animal rights groups said the ban was the result of their campaigning against what they describe as a cruel sport.