

## Bahrain leadership greets Sri Lanka

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on his country's Independence Day.

HRH Prince Salman sent a similar cable to the Prime Minister, Dr. Harini Amarasuriya.

## Kingdom shares grief with Congo

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The Kingdom of Bahrain expressed sympathy and solidarity with the Democratic Republic of Congo following the Rubaya mine collapse in the east of the country, which resulted in the death, injury, and disappearance of dozens of people.

A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended Bahrain's condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims, the Congolese government and its people, wishing a speedy recovery to the injured and safety for all.

## Easing access to renovation loans

Mohammed Darwish

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An urgent proposal has been lodged in Parliament seeking to make it easier for beneficiaries of the Mazaya Housing Programme to secure renovation loans, by allowing a joint mortgage over the property title deed between Eskan Bank and the bank that financed the main loan.

The sponsors say Mazaya beneficiaries are being turned away when they apply for renovation finance because the title deed is already mortgaged in favour of the financing bank.

They argue the answer is to apply the mortgage system for the deed, a method they say is already used in other Eskan Bank housing finance products.

The proposal was submitted by MPs Khalid Bua-naq, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Ahmed Al Salloom, Hisham Al Awadhi and Mohammed Al Ma'arafi.

# Strategic growth

Bahrain and Kuwait aim to strengthen ties and create shared opportunities

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It is important to strengthen the strategic partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the State of Kuwait to create opportunities that benefit both nations and their peoples.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised this during his meeting with the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The meeting took place as part of HRH Prince Salman's official visit to Kuwait.

HRH Prince Salman also met with the Crown Prince, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and the Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

### Relations

He affirmed the deep-rooted relations between the two countries, underpinned by longstanding historical ties that continue to advance under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HH Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber.

His Royal Highness conveyed the greetings of HM the King to HH the Amir of Kuwait, along with his best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of Kuwait.

In turn, HH Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber conveyed his greetings to HM King Hamad and expressed his wishes for the Kingdom's continued progress and prosperity.

### Collaboration

HRH Prince Salman commended the advancement of Bahrain-Kuwait relations and multisectoral collaboration, affirming the Kingdom's commitment to furthering the partnership across all levels.

Avenues to advance cooperation and issues of common



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister arrives in the Kingdom following an official visit to Kuwait



His Royal Highness with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah



HRH Prince Salman holds talks with the Kuwait Amir, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

interest were discussed during the meeting.

HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad was also in attendance.

### Efforts

Both countries also reaffirmed efforts to advancing the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in

line with the visions and aspirations of the leaders of the GCC countries.

In this regard, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister reiterated Bahrain's commitment, within the framework of the 46th GCC Summit, chaired by Bahrain, to strengthening integration and cooperation among

GCC member states, and to promote shared objectives and common interests of the GCC countries.

### Aspirations

The visit reflects the strength of Bahrain-Kuwait relations, which continue to advance across various fields in line with

shared aspirations.

Upon arrival, HRH Prince Salman was received by HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad and several senior officials.

A lunch banquet was held by HH the Crown Prince of Kuwait, in honour of His Royal Highness's official visit.

HH the Prime Minister of Kuwait and several senior Kuwaiti officials also attended the banquet.



"The Kingdom is committed to furthering the partnership with the State of Kuwait across all levels."

— HRH PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

## Threatening' aircraft carrier

# US warplane shoots down Iranian drone in Arabian Sea

AFP | Washington

A US stealth warplane shot down an Iranian drone that "aggressively" approached an American aircraft carrier as it sailed in the Arabian Sea yesterday, a US military spokesman said.

The incident occurred with the carrier about 500 miles (800 kilometers) from Iran's coast, and came on the same day that

American forces responded to Iranian boats that threatened to board a US-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

"An F-35C fighter jet from Abraham Lincoln shot down the Iranian drone in self-defense and to protect the aircraft carrier and personnel on board," US Central Command spokesman Captain Tim Hawkins said in a statement.

### Measures

The shootdown took place after the Shahed-139 drone "continued to fly toward the ship despite de-escalatory measures taken by US forces," Hawkins said.

He also confirmed a separate incident that occurred later Tuesday in which two Iranian boats and a drone approached the US-flagged ship M/V Stena Imperative "at high speeds and

threatened to board and seize the tanker."

An American destroyer - the USS McFaul - responded with support from the US Air Force and escorted the tanker, which is now "proceeding safely," Hawkins added.

US President Donald Trump has threatened military action against Iran and sent a flotilla of warships to the Middle East

following anti-government protests in Iran that were met with a deadly crackdown last month.

Trump has said he is hopeful Washington will "work something out" with Tehran, but also warned that "bad things would happen" if a deal was not reached, while Iran insists it wants diplomacy while promising a decisive response to any aggression.

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