



HAPPY
JULY 4TH
AMERICAN
INDEPENDENCE DAY

THE DAILY **tribune**

Reaping the benefits of FTA

Agreement aims to increase trade, economic opportunity, and prosperity for both nations

TDT|Manama

Both the Kingdom and the US have reaped the benefits of FTA, which came to force on January 11, 2006.

The purpose of the FTA is to increase trade, economic opportunity, and prosperity for both the United States and Bahrain.

Under the FTA, both governments removed tariffs and duties on nearly all traded consumer, agricultural, and industrial products, and liberalized the market for services.

The FTA also supports bilateral investment, facilitating job creation in both countries. The US-Bahrain FTA does not expire.

Since its implementation, bilateral merchandise trade has increased by over 140 per cent, from \$782 million in 2005, to \$1.9 billion in 2017. In 2016, the United States and Bahrain also traded \$1.3 billion in services.

The FTA and its companion agreement, the Bilateral Investment Treaty, have supported a growing number of corporate



His Majesty in conversation with Donald Trump as they met in Riyadh last year.

investments in our respective countries, resulting in the transfer of technologies and the creation of jobs and wealth in both economies.

Over 200 US firms have established operations in Bahrain. Bahraini investments in the United States have similarly risen under the FTA, according to the US Embassy here.

The Economic Development Board Bahrain identifies financial services, professional services, manufacturing, ICT, logistics and

transport sectors as particularly ripe for investment. The renewable energies and health care sectors, among others, also offer potential opportunity for US firms.

On the other hand, the US welcomes Bahraini investment. SelectUSA is the official US government office that provides information to investors about the benefits of a US location and hosts the annual SelectUSA Investment Summit, last held June 20-22, 2018 near Washington, DC.

The US Embassy collaborates

on trade and investment with entities in Bahrain including the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, the American Chamber of Commerce, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Economic Development Board Bahrain.

The Embassy also collaborates with entities in the United States such as the US Department of Commerce, the Office of the US Trade Representative, the US Chamber of Commerce, and the US-Bahrain Business Council.

Let this vibrant partnership flourish

As the United States of America celebrates its 242nd anniversary of its independence on the Fourth of July, it is noteworthy that for half this period Bahrain has had a unique relationship with the people of the US through the missionaries like Zwemmer who came to the shores of Bahrain and established the American Mission Hospital.

This relationship between two countries and two people of two faiths have grown to what it is today a vibrant partnership in commerce and strategic military support for this region through the diplomatic mission and the Fifth Fleet. Trade between the two countries stand at USD 3 billion and over 17,000 Americans

have Bahrain as their second home.

The American Mission Hospital has witnessed considerable growth during this period thanks to the support we have received from the Royal Court and the Government of Bahrain. From our humble beginnings in 1896 we now provide care through four sites with over 600 employees. We strive to be the best at what we do by providing uncompromising quality in the provision of healthcare at affordable cost to all the people of Bahrain.

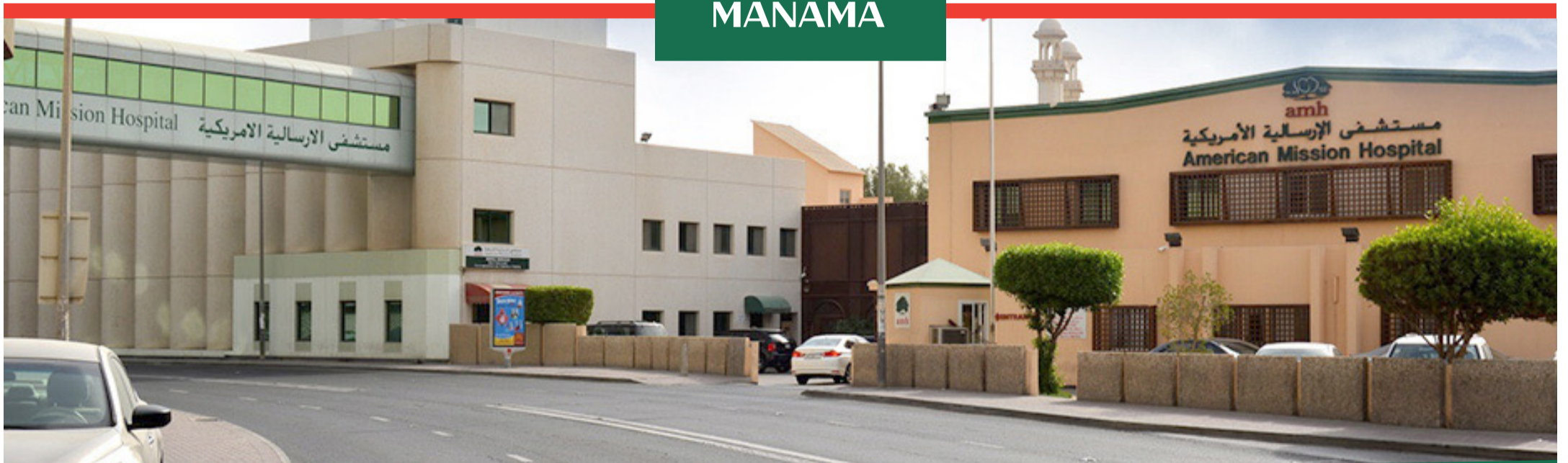
The values that set apart Bahrain as a land of tolerance and religious freedom goes back centuries in welcoming foreigners to its shore.

We wish the community of Americans in Bahrain a wonderful independence day as you celebrate the core values of the American independence in freedom and liberty for all that has made the US a great partner to the people of Bahrain.

**Management and Staff
American Mission Hospital**



MANAMA



RIFFA



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