

Royal welcome



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received the leaders and representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states at Al Sakhir Palace, upon their arrival to participate in the 46th Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit hosted by the Kingdom. Upon their arrival at the venue of the Bahrain Summit, His Majesty welcomed His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Sultan of the Sultanate of Oman; His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait; His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates; and His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar. Their Majesties and Highnesses expressed their deep appreciation for the generous hospitality extended to them since their arrival. A formal group photograph was then taken, after which His Majesty and the attending leaders and representatives proceeded to the main summit hall, where they were greeted by students from Bahrain's Ministry of Education schools, followed by a traditional Bahraini Ardha performance held in honour of the occasion.

Bahrain-Saudi cooperation for mutual growth

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, yesterday co-chaired the fourth meeting of the Bahraini-Saudi Coordination Council, held in Bahrain.

In the presence of HRH Prince Salman and HRH Prince Mohammed, the following was announced:

- \* Phased implementation of the electronic integration system linking the Bahraini and Saudi sides of the King Fahd Causeway.
- \* Activating the electronic gates for e-passport holders at airports in both countries.
- \* Facilitating proof of origin procedures for Bahraini industrial exports to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Integration).
- \* Providing scholarships for Bahraini students in Saudi Arabia.
- \* Approving intellectual property registration between the two countries.
- \* Bahrain accession to the Middle East and North Africa Regional Safety body.

Symbolic moment

Italian Prime Minister Meloni visits Awali Church



Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni with Awali Church leaders  
**Ashen Tharaka**  
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As part of the Gulf Summit held in Bahrain, the guest of honor, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, visited Awali Church yesterday.

The visit is seen as a historic moment for the Kingdom, reflecting Bahrain's long-standing commitment to national coexistence and religious harmony.

During an open media briefing in Manama, Prime Minister Meloni outlined the main focus areas of her visit.

Discussions

She said discussions were centered on Italy-Gulf economic cooperation, the link between the Mediterranean and the Arabian Peninsula, and efforts to support regional stability and the future of the Middle East.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed Italy's support for a two-state solution and described the current peace initiatives for Gaza as an important opportunity.

She also called for a more



structured dialogue between Gulf countries and the European Union, expressing Italy's readiness to host new platforms for cooperation and future summits in Rome.

Summit

Prime Minister Meloni noted that the summit provided a chance to meet leaders from across the GCC, including coun-

tries she had not previously engaged with during her premiership, such as Oman and Kuwait.

She highlighted Italy's recently signed bilateral agreement with Bahrain in the naval defense sector.

Meloni added that visiting the cathedral in Awali was particularly meaningful to her, given the long-standing Catholic presence in Bahrain.





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