

Royal leadership praised



HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa



H.E. Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa



H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa



H.E. Lieutenant General Staff Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi



H.E. Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi



HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa



HH Shaikh Ali bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa



H.E. Major General Bassam Mohammed Khamis Al Maraj



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, received cables of congratulations on the occasion of the 58th anniversary of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF).

Greetings were sent by senior officials and members of the royal family, including His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister



His Majesty commanded the BDF's efforts to enhance its efficiency and strengthen its ability to operate advanced military systems.

H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal

Court; HH Shaikh Ali bin Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Minister of Royal Court Affairs; H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Vice Chairman of the Higher Urban Planning Committee; and H.E. Major General Bassam Mohammed Khamis Al Maraj, President of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), among others.

The Minister of Interior highlighted the support of HM the King and the directives of HRH Prince Salman, in the development of the BDF.

H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah wished further progress and prosperity for the Kingdom of Bahrain.

‘Ignoring safety can cost lives’

Ghadir Alkumaish

TDT | Manama

“Safety is not optional, it is your responsibility,” was the key message delivered to building, establishment, and restaurant owners by Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar, Head of Hidd Police Station, during an appearance on the Interior Ministry’s Al Aman social media programme.

“Always use devices and equipment approved by the General Directorate of Civil Defence,” he emphasized. “Neglecting these requirements can lead to tragic consequences injuries, loss of life, and legal repercussions. God forbid; lives can be lost if safety is ignored.”

Colonel Bahar reminded viewers that buildings have



“The choice is clear: put safety first, or risk the consequences.”

— COLONEL DR. OSAMA BAHAR, HEAD OF HIDD POLICE STATION

43 of the Interior Ministry’s Al Aman social media program, he explained the dangers of gas leaks, which were responsible for more than 300 fires and 21 explosions in 2024 and 2025.

He highlighted the main causes of gas leaks and shared four simple prevention tips that should be taught, explained,

and practiced by all household members to avoid similar incidents in the future.

“Negligence can cost lives,” he warned. “Your reputation depends on it but more importantly, so does human life. Do not rely solely on your staff; follow up personally, because the law holds you accountable.”

Explosions

He added a stark reminder: “In the past two years, 21 residential buildings have been affected by explosions, with some collapsing entirely due to gas. Lives were lost, people were injured, and some cases were referred to the Public Prosecution. The choice is clear: put safety first, or risk the consequences.”

Colonel Bahar concluded: “Choose wisely. Choose safety.”

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

A King's Vision That Still Protects Bahrain



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

For decades, Bahrain has continued to live by the far-sighted vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, may God protect and preserve him—a vision that has consistently touched the daily lives of Bahraini citizens across all fields. With each passing year, and through every national occasion or anniversary, we are reminded that His Majesty anticipated the importance of pivotal developments long before they became realities. The anniversary of the establishment of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), particularly amid the escalating regional tensions we witness today, stands as a clear testament to that foresight.

Nearly six decades ago, following his graduation from the Mons Officer Cadet School in the United Kingdom, His Majesty—then Crown Prince—returned to Bahrain with a clear and deliberate vision: the establishment of a national defense institution capable of safeguarding the country’s sovereignty. That vision soon materialized with the founding of the Bahrain Defence Force. His Majesty personally laid down its structure and strategic direction and directly supervised the early stages of its formation, pursuant to the Amiri decree appointing him Commander of the force, which was known at the time as the “National Guard.”

His Majesty proceeded to develop comprehensive plans covering recruitment, training, armament, and institutional growth. He oversaw the construction of the first building blocks and infrastructure of the force and established its foundational regulations, eventually leading to the formation of the Air Force and Naval Force during the 1970s. These steps reflected a clear understanding that national defense must be built on modern, sustainable, and forward-looking foundations.

In establishing the Bahrain Defence Force, His Majesty drew upon the historic legacy inherited from his grandfather, Isa the Great, while fully appreciating his responsibility in completing the pillars of the modern Bahraini state. Central to that responsibility was the creation of a contemporary defense system capable of protecting the nation, preserving stability, and ensuring long-term security.

As we commemorate this year the legacy of the founding ruler, Isa the Great, we also take pride in living in the era of the founder of the Bahrain Defence Force—our King. We are grateful for the wisdom and strategic vision with which God has endowed His Majesty for the future of Bahrain, the region, and the world.

Today, the region faces mounting tensions that few could have imagined six decades ago. Yet these challenges were clearly foreseen by His Majesty when he laid the foundations of the Bahrain Defence Force, which now stands as a robust shield and a source of reassurance for citizens amid regional uncertainty. Over the years, the BDF has continued to achieve qualitative progress, keeping pace with advanced defense systems and ensuring its personnel are consistently trained to operate them.

This progress has been supported by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, whose commitment has ensured the provision of the resources necessary for continuous development. His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa has also played a key role by promoting innovation and launching initiatives such as the Nasser Military Innovation Competition, fostering creativity within the military institution.

We must also recognize the significant role of His Excellency Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, whose efforts in strengthening the institutional and regulatory framework have enhanced the force’s ability to secure the nation and fulfill its mission with professionalism.

As we mark the anniversary of the Bahrain Defence Force, we extend our deepest gratitude to His Majesty the King for a vision conceived six decades ago—one that continues to protect Bahrain and its people today.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)