

Kingdom keen to bolster EU cooperation



Minister Al Zayani with the European Union delegation

Foreign Minister receives head of European Union delegation to Bahrain

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Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani hailed the level of cooperation between Bahrain and the European Union.

Expressing the Kingdom's keenness, under the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, to develop cooperation in various fields, Dr Al Zayani yesterday received the head of the European Union delegation to Bahrain, residing in Riyadh, Ambassador Patrick

Simonet.

Ambassador Simonet praised the important meetings he held with senior officials in Bahrain, which would contribute to more mutual understanding and cooperation.

He also highlighted the European Union's keenness to strengthen cooperation with Bahrain in all fields, wishing the Kingdom further development.

The meeting was attended by the Ministry's Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and Denmark, and Representative to the European Union and NATO, Dr Bahia Jawad Al Jishi, the German Ambassador to Bahrain, Kai Boeckmann, and the head

of the European Affairs Sector, Ahmed Ebrahim Al Qarainees.

Minister Al Zayani expressed his contentment over his recent visit to Brussels and his meetings with senior officials of the European Union, saying it was an opportunity to exchange views and consult on ways to promote cooperation at all levels.

It was also an opportunity to sign cooperation mechanisms between the Ministry and the European External Action Service that will contribute to expanding cooperation and coordination between them.

Minister Al Zayani expresses his aspiration for further communication and exchange of visits between senior officials from both sides.

Appeals Court rejects embezzlement case for lack of evidence

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The Appeals Court rejected an embezzlement case filed by an owner of a cleaning company against his partner, citing lack of proof.

The duo reportedly established the company in 2005 but decided to expand by launching a new company in 2010 under the name of the defendant.

However, their disagreements grew, prompting the plaintiff to file a lawsuit against his partner accusing him of pocketing BDL1,121,955.

He told the court that the defendant was managing the company and he requested him to sign blank cheques to ensure the smoothness of operations in the company.

According to the plaintiff's statements before prosecutors, he took advantage of the signed cheques and deposited them into the account of another company that he owned.

"He stole more than BDI million of the company's money. We wanted to expand the company but he badly exploited my faith in him and took the money for himself," he said.

The defendant also summoned witnesses who testified in his favour. Nevertheless, the High Criminal Court and the High Appeals Court rejected the lawsuit after it was found that the two were still dealing with each other, while an accounting expert refuted the plaintiff's claims that his partner embezzled the said amount.

New COVID-19 treatment unit at Salmaniya launched



Shaikh Mohammed with hospital staff

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Supreme Council of Health and Head of the National Medical Taskforce for Combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Chairman Lieutenant-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa inaugurated an integrated unit for treating active COVID-19 cases at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

Shaikh Mohammed commended the steady and continuous support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in providing all resources and capabilities to confront the pandemic.

Shaikh Mohammed stressed

that the opening of the unit, to be managed by the Government Hospitals, is in line with HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's order regarding the necessity of preserving the capacity for isolation and treatment that provides the services required for all patients throughout all the stages of dealing with the virus.

It is also within the efforts of the national taskforce led by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to confront the coronavirus to boost preparedness and planning and to ensure hospital capacity, he added.

Shaikh Mohammed said that the current occupancy rate of 59% is reassuring for dealing with the virus in terms of examination and treatment.

Bahrain human rights 'success stories' hailed

Speaker Zainal affirms parliament interest to cooperate with national human rights institutions and associations



Speaker Zainal receives a delegation from Bahrain Journalists Association (BJA), led by its president Ahdeya Ahmed Al Sayyed and Deputy President Rashid Nabil Al Hamer, marking Bahrain Press Day. The delegation comprises BJA board members Abdulrahman Al Medfa, Sarrah Najib, Zahra Habib, Hassan Al Sitri and Mohammed Bahar.

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Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal has lauded Bahrain's rich and advanced human rights record and the ongoing efforts to consolidate it, thanks to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's support.

The Speaker expressed the parliament's full appreciation of the efforts made by the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to develop the human rights system in the kingdom.

She described the country's pioneering human rights achievements as distinguished success stories, citing its endeavours to counter the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, through ensuring the safety and health of the citizens and residents, as well as the provision of health care and services for everyone.

Speaker Zainal highlighted the landmark human rights projects, initiatives and programmes launched by Bahrain in the human rights field, in addition to the respect for the



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rights of inmates and the provision of the necessary health care and services for them at the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre, in accordance with a humanitarian vision and legal approach adopted by the Interior Ministry.

The Speaker underlined the Representatives Council's keenness to enhance its cooperation with the national human rights institutions and associations to promote the human rights culture, preserve gains, defend

the national capabilities and highlight the national achievements locally and abroad, in accordance with a joint action plan based on Bahrain's pioneering legislative and human rights system, advanced executive procedures, integrated comprehensive projects and initiatives and widely-appreciated national human rights institutions and organisations.

She made the statements while receiving yesterday, in the presence of the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee at the Council of Representatives, MP Ammar Al Bannai, the President of the Arab Union for Human Rights (AUHR), Isa Al Arabi. The two sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation between the Council of Representatives and the AUHR so as to contribute to highlighting Bahrain's human rights achievements to the entire world, in accordance with a bilateral action plan.

Al Arabi praised the Council's interest in human rights in the kingdom, and keenness to highlight Bahrain's landmark achievements in this regard through parliamentary diplomacy.

BDF Commander-in-Chief receives Commander of US Central Command



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received General Kenneth F McKenzie Jr, Commander of the United States Central Command. Defense Affairs Minister Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, and BDF Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, were present. The Commander-in-Chief praised the cooperation between Bahrain and the US and the development and growth it is witnessing at all levels, especially in the military field and the continuous coordination in the defense field.

Bahrain Ambassador meets Palestinian Minister in Moscow



Bahrain's Ambassador to Russia Ahmed Abdulrahman Al Saati has participated in the meeting held by the Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Dr Riyad Al Maliki with Arab Ambassadors accredited in Moscow as part of his official visit to the Russian capital. Al Maliki briefed the ambassadors on the developments related to Palestine, especially with regard to the decision of President Mahmoud Abbas to postpone the legislative elections due to Israeli authorities preventing them in East Jerusalem. The Minister also highlighted the international efforts of the Palestinian Authority to prioritise the Palestinian issue.