

US warns Iran
 Any attack on shipping will trigger devastating response, Pentagon says amid Hormuz tensions. | P8

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Volleyball giants collide as Crown Prince Cup reaches semi-final stage **15** SPORTS

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Calls For Diplomacy

Bahrain reaffirms support for Ukraine peace process during president's visit

TDT | Manama

HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Manama. The two leaders discussed bilateral relations, regional developments, and the ongoing war in Ukraine.



HM the King, in the presence of HRH Prince Salman, holds talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

The meeting was attended by HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. HM King Hamad welcomed Zelensky on his visit to Bahrain and reviewed ways to strengthen

cooperation between the two countries across various sectors in a manner that serves their mutual interests. The talks also covered recent regional and international developments, including

tensions in the Middle East and efforts to address them, as well as updates on the Ukraine conflict. The king expressed appreciation for President Zelensky's "sincere solidarity" with Bahrain following recent Iranian attacks on the kingdom and other Gulf Cooperation Council states. He also reaffirmed Bahrain's support for initiatives aimed at promoting dialogue and diplomacy to achieve a sustainable peace in Ukraine, stressing the importance of stability for Europe and the wider world.

Manama Dialogue Praised

Sir John Chipman concludes tenure with appreciation for Bahrain partnership

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received the outgoing Executive Chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), Sir John Chipman, at Gudaibiya Palace, marking the end of his tenure.



HRH Prince Salman receives Sir John Chipman, in the presence of HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

During the meeting, HRH the Crown Prince underlined the importance of continued cooperation between Bahrain and leading international research and policy institutions, including the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

He praised Sir Chipman's contribution to strengthening ties between Bahrain and the institute, particularly through the organisation of the Manama Dialogue, which has become a prominent international forum

HRH Prince Salman said the Manama Dialogue has developed into a key platform that brings together senior policymakers and security experts

on regional and global security issues. He wished Sir Chipman success in his future endeavours. Sir Chipman, for his part, expressed appreciation for the

Crown Prince's continued support for cooperation with the institute, and wished Bahrain further progress and prosperity. The meeting was also attended by HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister

of the Prime Minister's Court, at Gudaibiya Palace.

Six-month extension approved for councils

Meanwhile, HRH Prince Salman issued a decree extending the term of the municipal councils by six months, citing necessity due to current circumstances and their resulting impact.

Under Decree No. (17) of 2026, the extension takes effect when the councils' current terms expire. The existing municipal councils will continue to carry out their duties until new councils are formally formed.

The decree also stipulates that all relevant authorities must implement its provisions within their respective mandates. It will come into force the day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Luxury Redefined

Gulf Air Expands Premium Offering in Strategic Partnership with beOnd

TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and beOnd, the world's first premium leisure airline, announced a strategic partnership to redefine the premium travel experience for passengers flying across both airlines' networks.



H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and Mr. Khalid Taqi, Chairman of Gulf Air Group, along with senior government and industry officials, attend the agreement-signing ceremony

By uniting Gulf Air's established global network with beOnd's distinctive leisure-focused offering, the agreement opens new journey possibilities and elevates connectivity for travellers seeking a premium, end-to-end travel experience. The partnership enables customers to book and travel seamlessly across an expanded range of connected routes.

The agreement was formalised at a signing ceremony held in Bahrain at the Bahrain Na-

tional Theatre, attended by H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunication, Mr. Khalid Taqi, Chairman of Gulf Air Group, along with senior government and industry officials. The milestone re-

flects a shared commitment to delivering an elevated passenger journey — from the moment of booking through to arrival — underpinned by coordinated customer experience practices and a unified standard of premium hospitality

Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Martin Gauss, stated: "We are proud to launch this partnership with beOnd and to bring our customers an even richer travel experience. As Bahrain's national carrier, with a heritage spanning more than 75 years, Gulf Air has always placed the passenger at the heart of everything we do. This partnership deepens that commitment, combining the strength of our global network with beOnd's exceptional leisure proposition to create journeys that are truly memorable."

beOnd Chief Executive Officer and Chairman, Mr. Tero Taskila, commented: "Bahrain holds a unique place in the story of aviation — a region where the history of flight stretches back more than a century, and where the ambition has never

stood still. The Bahrain National Aviation Strategy reflects that same forward momentum: a clear commitment to connectivity, high-value tourism, and a premium travel experience worthy of the Kingdom's standing. Through our partnership with Gulf Air, beOnd is proud to play a part in that future — bringing a differentiated, all-premium leisure experience to Bahrain and connecting the Kingdom to the travellers it deserves. Together, we are building something that feels both grounded in this place and genuinely new."

The partnership reinforces both airlines' strategic priorities: growing premium leisure travel, driving inbound tourism, and cementing Bahrain's standing as a world-class destination and a leading hub for travellers across the region and beyond.

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Takaful International announces its financial results for the first quarter of 2026

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Detention over social media post

Rehab Mohammad

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Public Prosecution ordered the detention of a 20-year-old man and referred him to criminal court on charges of insulting religious symbols on the social media platform X, authorities said.

The Cybercrime Directorate reported that an account published offensive posts targeting the wives of the Prophet Muhammad and one of his companions.

Investigators identified the suspect, who was arrested under a prosecution warrant. He reportedly confessed during questioning after being confronted with the posts and digital evidence.

The Cybercrime Prosecution said the case falls under laws criminalising insults to religious figures, which carry penalties of up to one year in prison.

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