

Bahrain's National Environment Day, An Annual Milestone



SRIRAJ KOTA

Bahrain observed its National Environment day on 4th February, 2026 with the theme of "We Restore it...to Revive it". The occasion highlighted Bahrain's commitment to environmental protection, sustainable development, and raising public awareness about preserving natural resources for future generations. The day was marked by special initiatives such as the placement of recycling bins in over 300 locations to boost waste management. The day also put the spotlight on key initiatives such as the Afforestation Plan that aims to plant 3.6 million trees by 2035 to expand green spaces. Due to the commendable efforts of Bahrain, already 67% of the target or 2.4 million trees have already been planted in 2025.

Efforts such as above have helped Bahrain put words to action and helped translate policies to environmental conservation achievements. On the eve of the National Environment Day it is important to note that the Bahrain Mangrove Initiative is yet another step that envisions an increased role of mangroves in ecological conservation. The initiative aims at increasing the mangrove cover four-fold by 2035. These steps have solidly put Bahrain on the path of carbon neutrality by 2060 besides enhancing the quality of life of the citizens. The special day helped Bahrain highlight these achievement and future ambitious plans for the environment which in turn inspire societal commitment for environmental protection. This year's National Environment Day served as an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between people and their natural surroundings.

Additionally Bahrain's decision to ban import of plastic in all forms is yet another global benchmark in environmental conservation. Moreover the prohibition of manufacture, trade and import of plastic bottles and cups less than 200 milliliters is also an encouraging step towards an eventual plastic free future. These steps have helped the nation celebrate the National Environment day as they aid in tackling everyday environmental challenges such as climate change, water stress, rising temperatures, and increasing waste generation. Moreover the society is also encouraged to come together to pause and consider how everyday

choices shape the environment and also underscore the importance of private sector participation in environment conservation.

Today Bahrain has emerged as one of the foremost nations that has evolved and established best environment conservation practices for the

Today Bahrain has emerged as one of the foremost nations that has evolved and established best environment conservation practices for the world to emulate. The implementation of "My Clean Plate Bahrain" for instance targets food wastage and aims to combat plastic pollution



world to emulate. The implementation of "My Clean Plate Bahrain" for instance targets food wastage and aims to combat plastic pollution. Similarly, investment in solar and other renewable energies aiming for 5% usage by 2025 and 10% by 2030 is yet another outstanding step by Bahrain.

Inspite of being in a geographical area that has harsh weather conditions all year long, Bahrain has been able to log impressive progress in almost all spheres of environment protection. The National Environment Day is an apt event to showcase this progress so that it serves as inspiration to achieve even greater heights.

This year's National Environment Day underlines Bahrain's unwavering commitment to protecting and conserving the environment.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)

US seeks new nuclear talks

Washington calls for Russia, China talks after last major nuclear arms treaty expires

● New START treaty expires Thursday

● US calls for three-way talks

● China refuses to join "at this stage"

● Russia demands UK and France join

AFP | Washington

The United States yesterday urged three-way talks with Russia and China to set new limits on nuclear weapons, after the last treaty between top nuclear powers Washington and Moscow expired.

China has already rejected joining disarmament negotiations "at this stage", while Russia suggested other nuclear-armed states like Britain and France should be included.

"Arms control can no longer be a bilateral issue between the United States and Russia," US Secretary of State Marco Rubio wrote in an online essay.

"Other countries have a responsibility to help ensure strategic stability, none more so than China," he said.

Thomas DiNanno, US under secretary of state for arms control, presented a new plan to the UN Conference on Disarmament, charging that the New START treaty that lapsed on Thursday had "fundamental flaws".

"Serial Russian violations, growth of more worldwide stockpiles and flaws in New START's design and implementation gives the United States a clear imperative to call for a new architecture that addresses the threats of today, not those of a bygone era," he told a United Nations meeting in Geneva.

Modernised treaty'

The expiration of New START, which restricted the United States and Russia to 1,550 de-



a naval flag-raising ceremony aboard the latest Project 955A (Borey-A) strategic nuclear-powered submarine Knyaz Pozharsky in Severodvinsk

ployed nuclear warheads each, marks the first time in decades that there is no treaty to curtail the positioning of the planet's most destructive weapons, sparking fears of a fresh arms race.

US President Donald Trump did not accept a proposal from Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to keep New START's restrictions in place for another year. He called Thursday for a "new, improved and modernised treaty".

Rubio said that the United States will "negotiate from a position of strength".

"Russia and China should not expect the United States to stand still while they shirk their obligations and expand their nuclear forces," Rubio wrote.

"We will maintain a robust, credible and modernised nuclear deterrent."

"But we will do (so) while pursuing all avenues to fulfil the president's genuine desire for a world with fewer of these awful weapons."

Trump has said he wants to restart nuclear testing for the first



The expired New START treaty capped US and Russian deployed nuclear warheads at 1,550 each – and its lapse leaves no active limits between the world's largest nuclear arsenals

time in decades, although there has been no follow-through.

'No limits'

DiNanno accused China of taking advantage of the "legally-binding US-Russian restraint to begin expanding its arsenal at a historic pace", maintaining that it was "on track to have over 1,000 nuclear warheads by

2030".

"As we sit here today, China's entire nuclear arsenal has no limits, no transparency, no declarations, had no controls," he charged.

Russia and the United States together control more than 80 percent of the world's nuclear warheads.

But China's nuclear arsenal is growing faster than for any other country, by about 100 new warheads a year since 2023, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

China's ambassador Shen Jian reiterated Beijing's official position yesterday, insisting to the disarmament body that "China's nuclear capabilities are nowhere near the level of those of the US or Russia".

"China would not participate in nuclear disarmament negotiations at this stage."

He insisted that "states possessing the largest nuclear arsenals should continue to fulfil their special and primary responsibilities for nuclear disarmament".

Russia accuses Kyiv of gun attack on army general in Moscow

AFP | London

A top Russian military intelligence general was shot and wounded in a Moscow apartment building yesterday, in what Russia called an assassination attempt orchestrated by Ukraine.

There was no comment from Kyiv, which has claimed responsibility for several of the high-ranking military officials that have been killed on Russian soil since Moscow launched its full-scale offensive in February 2022.

Vladimir Alekseyev is the deputy head of Moscow's GRU military intelligence. He is under Western sanctions for his alleged role in cyberattacks and charges that he organised a nerve agent attack on a Russian defector in Britain.

Russian investigators said he was shot by an "unidentified in-



Investigators leave a high-rise residential building, the scene of an assassination attempt on Russian Lieutenant General Vladimir Alekseyev, in Moscow

dividual" who fled the scene, and was subsequently admitted to hospital.

In televised comments, Rus-

ian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused Ukraine of being behind the "terrorist act", saying Kyiv wanted to "disrupt

the negotiation process" aimed at ending the four-year war.

Alekseyev is the top deputy of

Moscow's main negotiator at

tri-lateral talks with Ukraine and the

United States, the latest round of

which concluded Thursday in Abu Dhabi.

The Kremlin acknowledged its military leaders were under threat at home while its troops were fighting in Ukraine.

"It is clear that such military

leaders and high-level specialists are at risk during wartime,"

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"But it is not up to the Kremlin to decide how to ensure their safety. That is a matter for the special services."

He added that Russian Presi-

dent Vladimir Putin was being

kept aware of the incident and

the Kremlin hoped the general

would recover.