

HM the King, President Putin review deep-rooted Bahraini-Russian relations

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The solid deep-rooted relations between Bahrain and Russia were reviewed yesterday, along with ways to bolster joint cooperation to achieve mutual interests. The two friendly countries discussed this yesterday when His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa held a phone call with



HM the King



Russian President Putin

the Russian President, Vladimir Putin. With the backing of their strong Bahraini-Russian relations, they agreed to activate joint committees to serve shared interests and achieve the two friendly countries' aspirations. HM King Hamad hailed President Putin's key role to enhance bilateral relations and consoli-

date regional and global peace and security. The Russian President thanked and appreciated HM the King for his dedicated efforts and support to enhance relations and cooperation with his country. He wished Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity, under HM the King's leadership.

Expatriate street vendors could face legal action

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Legal action could be taken against expatriate street vendors who violate the law, after the Cabinet approved yesterday a proposal submitted by the Council of Representatives to address the issue of such individuals in public places, markets, roads and houses of worship.

The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry was requested to take the necessary procedures, in coordination with the competent authorities.

The Cabinet's regular weekly session yesterday was chaired by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

During the session, the Cabinet also approved the government's reply on a proposal on the citizens' consumption of electricity in their primary residences.

The Cabinet further endorsed a proposal submitted by the Representatives Council on developing a communication mechanism for deaf-mute people which would allow them to participate in talk shows presented by Bahrain TV. This would allow them to highlight their role in society, and shed light on their issues and needs.

Modified organisational structure of Premier's Court endorsed; BACA to be restructured.

Also yesterday, the Cabinet, based on HRH the Premier's directives, and a recommendation by the Civil Service Council, led by HRH the Crown Prince, endorsed the modified organisational structure of HRH the Prime Minister's Court.

The session also approved the restructuring of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities by transferring the affiliation of the Handicrafts Directorate from the Tourism and Exhibitions Authority to it.

It also approved the restructuring of the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) by canceling the Communication Directorate and changing the affiliation of some directorates.

Youth Ministry-affiliated clubs' model regulation to be amended.

The Cabinet approved an edict on amending the provisions of the Model Regulations of the statute of clubs, subject to the supervision of the Ministry of Youth and

Sports Affairs. The amendment enables the Ministry to recommend those who apply for the membership of clubs' administrations, set a system for membership renewal in accordance with terms and conditions, allow the invitation and attend the general assembly meeting by any approved electronic means, establish an electronic archive, and obligate the existence of contracts for all who receive payments from clubs.

Final anti-dumping duties to be imposed on cement imports from Iran for 5 years

The Cabinet agreed to impose a final anti-dumping fee of 67.5 per cent of the value (CIF) against the imports of GCC countries from all kinds of aqueous cement products including solid cement called "clinker", whether it is coloured of origin or exported from Iran and included under the customs clause (2523) of the customs tariff for GCC states for a period of five years, starting from June 20, 2020.

The Cabinet instructed the Customs Affairs to implement the decision, which is based on the resolution of the GCC Ministerial Committee for Industrial Cooperation.

Meanwhile, HRH the Prime Minister lauded the values embedded in the keynote speech delivered by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, while chairing the meeting of the Supreme Defence Council.

HRH the Premier also congratulated Major-General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa on his appointment, as per an order issued by His Majesty the King Hamad, as Supreme Defence Council secretary-general.

The Cabinet welcomed the Kingdom's success in maintaining Tier one status in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report for the third straight year, noting that Bahrain's top ranking in the MENA region and the achievement reflect the government's success in combatting such dangerous crimes that conflict the global conscience.

While reviewing a memorandum presented by the Foreign Affairs Minister on the Kingdom's efforts to improve the work environment and combat trafficking in persons, the session commended the efforts exerted by the competent authorities in this regard, including the Interior Ministry; the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry; the Labour and Social Development Ministry; the Foreign Affairs Ministry; the Labour Market Regulatory Authority; and the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Foreign Minister: Bahraini-Chinese trade generates \$2 billion

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The trade exchange between Bahrain and China had reached about two billion dollars in 2019, said the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al-Zayani yesterday. He also reiterated Bahrain's support to the "Belt and Road" initiative, a global development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 involving infrastructure development and investments in nearly 70 countries and international organizations.

Dr Al-Zayani was speaking at the ninth session of the ministerial meeting of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum (ACCF), which was held in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

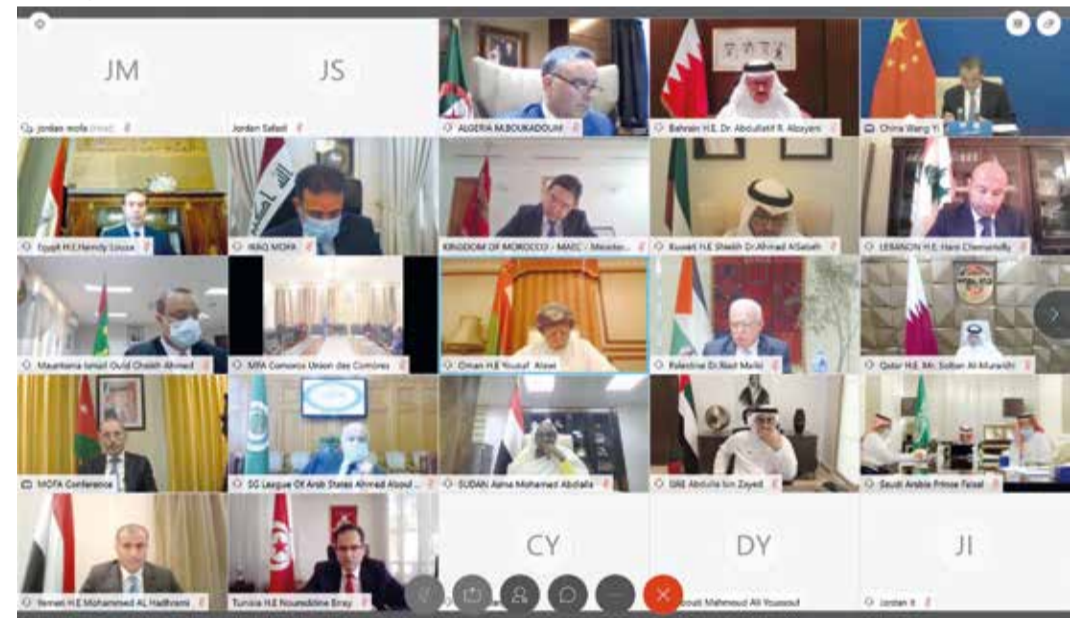
The virtual meeting was chaired by Jordanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Ayman Safadi. Also present were the Chinese Councilor of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, other Arab foreign ministers, a Bahraini delegation of officials and the Arab League secretary general, Ahmed Aboul Gheit.

Dr Al-Zayani pointed out in his speech that since ACCF was established in 2004, Arab-Chinese relations have seen remarkable development. He highlighted Bahrain's constant support to the forum by hosting a number of its activities - their third session in 2008, the ACCF in the media in 2010, and the second session of the Chinese Arts Festival in 2012.

The foreign minister listed out a few of the achievements from recent Bahraini-Chinese relations, as the two countries celebrated the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations last year. The Chinese Confucius Institute was opened at the Uni-



Dr Al-Zayani



A screenshot of the meeting in progress

versity of Bahrain in 2014, the Chinese Dragon City was set up in Muharraq in 2015, and Bahrain signed a memorandum of understanding to join the Chinese "Belt and Road" initiative in 2018.

He affirmed Bahrain's keen-

ness to bolster bilateral relations in all vital fields, beneficial to both the countries.

Arab-Chinese cooperation through remote meetings between health officials to overcome the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis and their joint

statement to combat COVID-19 was lauded by Dr Al-Zayani. He also welcomed holding an Arab-Chinese summit, hosted by Saudi Arabia, the executive programme for cooperation between both sides and the Aman Declaration.



- Chinese Confucius Institute opened at the University of Bahrain in 2014
- Chinese Dragon City set up in Muharraq in 2015
- Bahrain signed an MoU to join the Chinese "Belt and Road" initiative in 2018

Five arrested for assault, as shown in viral video

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Five individuals have been arrested for their involvement in an incident in which two security guards were physically assaulted by a group of people.

This was announced by Capital Governorate Prosecution head Adnan Fakhro, according to our sister paper Al Ayam.

It follows the emergence of a video widely circulated on social media showing a group of people, reported to be Asian nationals, assaulting a pair of security guards.

After an intensive investigation launched by the Public Prosecution, the five suspects were identified and were arrested.

They were interrogated and confronted with the video of the incident, as well as with the results of the investigations. They were ordered to remain in detention after being charged with assault.

Others involved in the incident are also being investigated.



Screenshots of the video. Pictures courtesy Al Ayam