

Fireworks expected in King's Cup Semi-Finals

Al Khaldiya meet Riffa tonight at Khalifa Sports City in a King's Cup semi-final, with controversy adding extra edge. | P12

Gulf Air Returns to Skies with Riyadh Route



Gulf Air operations are back
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Gulf Air resumed its operations from Bahrain International Airport yesterday following the reopening of the Kingdom's airspace after a 40-day closure. Marking the return to normal operations, the airline's first flight took off to Riyadh. The airline expressed appreciation for the support and coordination provided by Saudi authorities during the disruption, which ensured operational continuity despite regional tensions.

Safety alarm
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As President of the UN Security Council for April, the Kingdom of Bahrain chaired a briefing in New York focused on the protection of humanitarian personnel in conflict zones under Resolution 2730 (2024). Chaired by Ambassador Jamal Fares Alrowaiei, the session heard senior UN and Red Cross officials highlight growing threats faced by aid workers, including attacks, detentions, and operational risks across multiple conflict areas.

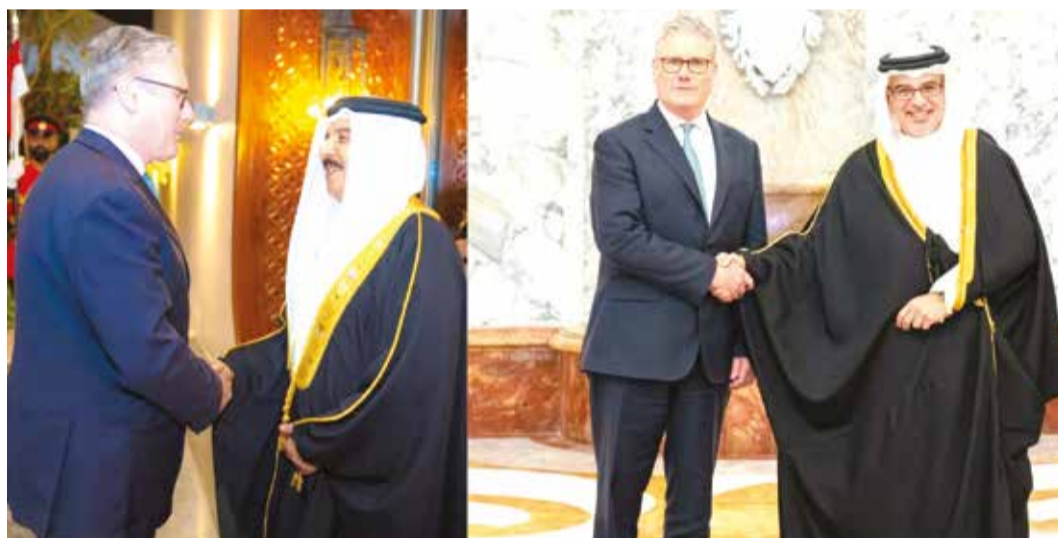
Strategic Security Talks

Cooperation across political, security, defence, and military sectors

● **Long-standing Bahrain-UK strategic ties**

TDT | Manama

HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer at Sakhir Palace in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, as part of the British leader's regional tour aimed at ensuring the continued reopening of the Strait of Hormuz following the ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran. His Majesty underscored the historic relationship between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom, which spans more than 200 years, describing it as a strong alliance built on solid foundations. Talks also covered regional and international developments, particularly their security and economic implications.



HM the King and HRH Prince Salman with Prime Minister Keir Starmer

Both sides expressed support for efforts aimed at reinforcing regional stability and addressing shared concerns. Separately, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa held talks with the UK Prime Minister, reaffirming the strength of the strategic partnership, supported by His Majesty the King and King Charles III. The Crown Prince stressed

the need for Iran to fully cease hostile actions, ensure the complete reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and uphold international obligations, including compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions. He noted that recent attacks targeting civilians and infrastructure across Bahrain and the region underscore the urgency of a firm international

response. Prime Minister Starmer, in turn, strongly condemned attacks targeting Bahrain and other regional countries, reiterating the United Kingdom's support for Bahrain's security and stability. He also praised the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad and commended the unity and resilience demonstrated by the Bahraini people.

Firm Shut, Asian Owner Jailed Over Expired Food Scam

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

A company has been shut down for six months and fined BD5,000 after a court found it guilty of re-labelling expired food and putting it back on sale with fake dates, posing a serious risk to public health. The Second Lower Criminal Court sentenced the company owner to three years in prison, imposed a BD10,000 fine, and ordered his deportation after serving his term. Five other defendants received jail sentences ranging from three months to three years, with two also facing deportation.

Operation

Authorities seized and ordered the destruction of all spoiled and counterfeit goods, along with the tools used in the operation. The court also ruled that the verdict be published at the defendants' expense once finalised. The case was uncovered after a tip-off led police to raid a residence and a commercial facility, where large quantities of expired and repackaged food items with falsified labels were found. Officials said the original expiry dates had been removed and replaced to mislead consumers. The Public Prosecution stressed that such violations endanger consumer safety.

Push for Safe Navigation: Bahrain Gains Arab Backing



Dr. Abdullahatif bin Rashid Al Zayani



Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud



Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan



Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani



Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco



Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council passage under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

● **Calls made for international action**

● **Reaffirmed commitment to diplomatic coordination**

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In a coordinated round of high-level diplomatic calls, Bahrain's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Abdullahatif bin Rashid Al Zayani discussed regional developments and maritime security concerns with several Arab foreign ministers and officials. The discussions focused on escalating regional tensions, including alleged Iranian attacks on several countries in the Gulf region and Jordan, as well as the wider implications of any disruption to navigation in the Strait of Hormuz on global trade and energy supplies. Dr. Al Zayani also briefed counterparts on Bahrain's dip-

lomatic initiatives at the United Nations Security Council, where the Kingdom is currently serving as a non-permanent member and holds the presidency for the month of April. The foreign ministers he spoke with included Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani of Qatar, Nasser Bourita of Morocco, and Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council. During the calls, Arab ministers and the GCC Secretary-Gen-

eral expressed strong support for Bahrain's diplomatic efforts, particularly its initiative to present a draft resolution—on behalf of GCC states and Jordan—aimed at securing maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. They described the initiative as a responsible step to safeguard one of the world's most critical shipping lanes, ensuring stability in global energy markets, protecting supply chains, and reinforcing international peace and security. The officials also emphasized the importance of continued Arab coordination and sustained diplomatic engagement to address regional challenges. They called for international efforts to ensure adherence to international law and the safe reopening of the Strait as a global maritime

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Appreciation

Dr. Al Zayani, in turn, expressed appreciation for the unified Arab support, highlighting Bahrain's commitment to continued consultation with regional and international partners. He reaffirmed that Bahrain will continue its diplomatic efforts at the Security Council to strengthen international stability and protect global economic interests, particularly in light of rising risks to energy security and international trade routes.

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