Bahrain, Oman affirm growing ties

TDT | Manama

Shaikh Khalid receiving Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa yesterday hailed the strong bilateral ties bonding Bahrain and Oman in all fields.

The minister said this while holding a meeting with Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman, Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah.

Bin Alawi arrived in Bahrain yesterday with the GCC Secretary-General Dr Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani.

Shaikh Khalid reaffirming the depth and strength of the brotherly relations between Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman also expressed his keenness to enhance bilateral cooperation and coordination on issues of mutual concern.

The efforts, the minister said, will help meet the aspirations of the two countries and brotherly peoples in all fields, wishing the Sultanate of Oman every success in presiding the current session of GCC.

Bin Alawi expressed pride in visiting the Kingdom affirming that the brotherly relations between the two countries and the two brotherly peoples are strong on all levels.

The two sides also discussed a number of issues related to joint GCC action and developments on the regional and international arenas.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary-General, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani was also present.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa during a meeting with a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya. The delegation was led by Kuwait-based Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Ali Abbas and accompanied by Ambassador Michael O. Oyugi, Director, Diaspora and Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, and their accompanying delegation. During the meeting, Dr Shaikha Rana reviewed bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Kenya and ways of propelling them to broader levels.

The Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed R. Alzayani meeting with a German Business delegation headed by Roland Meissner. They reviewed a number of issues, focusing on the joint economic relations between Bahrain and Germany and ways to enhance them and activate joint agreements between the private sector in both countries. The Minister also highlighted the important role played by the private sector in consolidating mutual relations and increasing trade volume.

MOFA signs deal with Representatives Council

TDT | Manama

Officials during the deal signing

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed yesterday between the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Center for Parliamentary Studies and Training at the Representatives Council.

The deal aims at organising joint courses as well as enhancing training and exchange of information with the Representatives Council.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa, and Secretary General of the Representatives Council, Advisor Rashid Mohammed Bounejema, signed the deal at a ceremony held at the Representatives Council.

The MoU, Bounejema said, comes in line with the aspirations and directives of the Council's Speaker, Fawzia Bint Abdullah Zainal, towards more consolidation and deepening of partnership between the Parliament and various specialized bodies in the field of training and rehabilitation.

The MoU reflects the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' keenness to enhance fruitful cooperation with all state institutions under the reform approach of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Rajab posted false, malicious tweets

TDT | Manama

The General Directorate of Anti-corruption and Economic and Electronic Crimes yesterday clarified in a statement said that the "false and malicious tweets" made by Nabeel Rajab do not fall within the freedom of expression guaranteed by Bahrain's constitution.

The statement was made in response to a call made by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on January 4 regarding the "immediate and unconditional release" of Nabeel Rajab.

Rajab is currently serving a five-year sentence on charges of "releasing false news during wartime and publicly insulting brotherly states and the Ministry of Interior.

The directorate pointed out that in March 2015, Rajab posted false news and rumours to his followers harming the operations of the Bahraini armed forces and the forces of brotherly countries during a time of war.

Rajab, the General Directorate said, posted on 31 March 2015 images of bodies again claiming that they were the consequences of the war in Yemen, while they were images of incidents in Gaza Palestine.

"For example, on 26 March, he posted images of bodies claiming they were the consequence of the war in Yemen, while in reality, they were images of incidents in Idlib in Syria that were published on 23 September 2014," the statement on Bahrain News Agency said.

Rajab, the General Directorate said, posted on 31 March 2015 images of bodies again claiming that they were the consequences of the war in Yemen, while they were images of incidents in Gaza Palestine.

He re-tweeted tweets and attached with them images of wounded people, claiming that hundreds of inmates in the Jaw prison had suffered fractures and hundreds were bleeding from their heads because of physical attacks and torture.

Rajab also insulted the Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate of Reformation and Rehabilitation through his tweets.

An investigation proved his hand in the tweets which resulted in taking the required legal steps by the Public Prosecutor, the statement said.

He was arrested and the electronic devices that he was using to post the tweets on his account were seized.

A gathering was organised at Sakhir on Tuesday in honour of the visiting SSG officials from Pakistan Army. The chief guest was SSG GOC Major General Tahir Masood Bhutta. Lt.Col. Sikandar Hayat of BNG & Lt.Col. Umair Bangash graced as the Guest of Honors. BNG and SSG officials and leading community members were in attendance. The programme was organised by Ahmed Nawaz, Majid Khan, Sajid Butt, Awais Akram, Falak Sher & Jamil Khan.