

Water is sacrosanct and should remain so

The targeting of seawater desalination plant in Bahrain in March this year was a reprehensible act and entirely unjustified. Coming from a water deficient part of India myself, this drone attack carried special concern. The international community needs to unite in criticizing such actions, either in war or during peacetime.

As a country, India has suffered the consequences of wrongful utilization of trans boundary river waters by other riparians. However the most stark has been the case of the Indus Waters Treaty which was signed as a goodwill gesture in 1960 after considerable efforts facilitated by the World Bank.

Despite its highly restrictive clauses which impeded normal development activities, India stood by the treaty through many wars with Pakistan in 1965, 1971 and 1999 and the continuous terrorist attacks from across the border. Over the years, the local populations in India were witness to their own economic marginalization due to the water allocation



H.E. Mr. Vinod K Jacob,
Ambassador of India to the
Kingdom of Bahrain

formula under the Treaty.

Yet, when the terror attack killed 26 innocent people in India in April last year, it shocked the conscience of the entire population. It also fundamentally called into question the basis of the Indus Water Treaty which was already under a shaky foundation.

Blood and water cannot flow together. Water flows are sacrosanct and should remain so. The Treaty was put into abeyance. After all, there is no wrong time for a right decision.
(The writer is Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain since August 2023. The views expressed are personal.)

Historic Manama Souq Set for Major Redevelopment



From left, Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities president Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi, and Municipalities and Agriculture Affairs Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak

TDT | Manama

Bahraini authorities held a coordination meeting to review progress on redeveloping the historic Manama Souq district, as part of a wider plan to preserve the kingdom's cultural and architectural heritage.

The meeting brought together Municipalities and Agriculture Affairs Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi, and Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities president Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, alongside members of the Capital Trustees Board chaired by Saleh Taher Tarradah.

Officials said the project follows directives from HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to protect Bahrain's historic identity and launch an integrated redevelopment plan for the traditional market area.

The redevelopment plan includes restoring heritage buildings, upgrading roads and walkways, improving market spaces and creating venues for cultural and commercial events, officials said.

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities said preserving the souq's historic landmarks and architectural character remains a priority as part of efforts to enhance Bahrain's cultural and tourism profile.

LMRA Arrests 29, Deports 94 in Bahrain Crackdown

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

Labour Market Regulatory Authority carried out 995 inspections across the kingdom between May 3 and 9, leading to the arrest of 29 irregular workers and the deportation of 94 people for labour and residency violations.

The campaigns were con-

ducted in coordination with several government agencies across all four governorates, authorities said.



Our Nurses, Our Future



Neethu V
TDT | Manama

Behind every hospital corridor, emergency call, and recovery story are nurses whose quiet compassion continues to heal lives every day.

Yesterday, International Nurses Day was marked across the world, honouring the dedication and resilience of nurses who remain at the very heart of healthcare.

The 2026 theme, "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives," calls attention to a simple but urgent truth - investing in nurses through stronger training, support, and leadership is key to stronger health systems and better outcomes worldwide.

On the occasion, the Supreme Health Council, Bahrain extended its appreciation to nurses across the Kingdom, recognising their humanitarian contribution and dedicated role in patient care, community health, and ensuring quality healthcare and patient safety.

Speaking to TDT, Ms. Seham Al Shaikh, President of the Bahrain Nursing and Midwifery Society, highlighted both the pressures and possibilities shaping the profession today.

She noted that while Bahrain has more than 1,000 registered nurses, the world continues to face a shortage of over 4 million nurses.

Regionally, the gap is even more pronounced, particularly in nursing and midwifery. In the Eastern Mediterranean

Region (EMRO), non-national and foreign nurses make up around 61% of the workforce, reflecting the need to further strengthen national capacity.

She emphasized that clear strategic directions are already in place, including increasing the sustainable training of national nurses and midwives, appointing a Chief Nurse with wider authority beyond hospital management, and ensuring nurses are represented at senior health policy levels.

She also stressed the importance of fair retention policies, particularly regarding wages and career development, to support and retain skilled professionals.

She also noted the need to involve younger nurses in leadership, regulation, and policy-making to help shape the future of healthcare.

International Nurses Day serves as a reminder that behind every treatment and recovery story are nurses whose care, strength, and compassion quietly save lives every day.



Ms. Seham Al Shaikh,
President, Bahrain Nursing
and Midwifery Society

Strength Through Structure

In times of stability, the strength of a system often goes unnoticed. However, the true efficiency of any structure - whether a family, a business organisation or a nation - is ultimately measured during periods of uncertainty, pressure and crisis. It is during such moments that leadership, governance and institutional preparedness are put to the real test.

When individuals reflect on difficult periods in their personal or professional lives, many can identify decisions that, in hindsight, may have been strategically flawed or emotionally driven. Yet, when observing how the Kingdom of Bahrain navigated the recent regional escalations, one cannot help but appreciate the remarkable level of coordination, stability and institutional discipline demonstrated throughout the period.

The ability to manage a national crisis without major systemic disruption is not accidental. It is the result of long-term governance built upon a clear hierarchy, timely and well-informed decision-making, effective delegation of authority, the professional deployment of manpower and a leadership structure capable of responding swiftly under pressure. These elements, collectively, ensured the nation's safety, continuity, and public confidence during an exceptionally sensitive time.

From maintaining public order and ensuring the uninterrupted availability of essential services to providing clear communication and reassurance to the public, the coordinated efforts of various ministries and national institutions reflected a governance model rooted in preparedness and responsibility. The round-the-clock commitment displayed by frontline personnel, security forces, healthcare teams and government agencies deserves immense recognition and appreciation.

At the heart of this stability lies the vision and leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, whose long-term approach to national development and institutional strength continues to guide the Kingdom through complex regional challenges. Equally significant has been the strategic direction and implementation led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, whose administrative leadership and crisis management reflected experience, wisdom and composure.

What stood out most during this period was the sense of equality, dignity and care extended to all residents and citizens alike, reinforcing Bahrain's longstanding values of coexistence, humanity and unity.

May Bahrain continue to remain a nation of peace, stability and sustainable growth for generations to come.



P. Unnikrishnan,
Chairman and Managing
Director of The Daily Tribune

Inclusive Education Breakthrough at Aali



Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

A government school in Bahrain has fully integrated two students with autism into mainstream classrooms this academic year, marking a milestone for the kingdom's inclusive education efforts.

Ministry of Education said the achievement at Aali Primary School for Boys reflects ongoing efforts to expand equal learning opportunities for students with special educational needs in public schools.

Officials said tailored teaching methods, early intervention programmes, and digital learning tools gradually transitioned the students from a specialised learning environ-

ment into regular classrooms.

Jaleela Al-Sayed Adnan Alawi, coordinator of the school's Autism Unit and Special Education Department, said one of the students initially struggled with communication and adapting to the classroom environment but later showed significant improvement in interaction and self-expression.

The programme also uses virtual reality and artificial intelligence applications to support learning and student engagement, while classmates were encouraged to promote cooperation and acceptance.

The initiative forms part of Bahrain's broader strategy to strengthen inclusive education and support students with diverse learning needs.

Bahrain Reaffirms Support for Peace Efforts

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Ebtisam Mohammed Saleh Al Dallal, a member of the Shura Council, said Bahrain remains committed to supporting peace efforts and diplomatic solutions through dialogue and joint cooperation to strengthen regional and global stability.

Speaking during the virtual "Forum of Ambassadors," organised by the Women Political Leaders Global Forum, she said HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's vision promotes moderation, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

She stressed that Middle East stability is closely linked



Ebtisam Mohammed Saleh Al Dallal

to global security, trade and energy markets, while highlighting the growing role of women in peacebuilding and crisis management.