

Maritime talks

Cyprus and Bahrain advance negotiations on water security cooperation

● **Cyprus President to visit Kingdom**

● **Cypriot firms ready to expand opportunities**

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

Cyprus is seeking to expand cooperation in maritime security, including water security, in alignment with Bahrain's vision to strengthen collaboration with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Cyprus' Ambassador to Bahrain, His Excellency Dr. Andreas Eliades, said discussions between the two countries are progressing, with both sides exploring new opportunities following recent high-level meetings between counterparts.

Highlighting the role of H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, the ambassador noted that Cypriot companies are ready to offer more opportunities in Bahrain, viewing the Kingdom as a key partner along Gulf trade routes.

These remarks were made during a press conference held at the Cyprus Embassy in Bahrain, where the ambassador outlined Cyprus' plans as it assumes the Presidency of the



Council of the European Union at a critical time.

Priorities

The ambassador said that artificial intelligence, climate change, and education will be top priorities in the region, with Cyprus seeking expert collaboration through shared initiatives.

He stressed that GCC representation at the discussion table is essential to advancing short-term regional plans.

He also revealed that the upcoming official visit of the Cyprus President to Bahrain will focus on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, and fintech.

Gateway

"Bahrain is the gateway to the Gulf, and Cyprus is the gateway to Europe," the ambassador said.

Advancing discussions on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is also on the agenda, particularly as the UAE and Saudi Arabia have already entered Strategic Partnership Agreements with the EU, with further talks continuing at the ministerial level.

Although Cyprus' EU Presidency is for a limited period, the country aims to maximise its impact by strengthening cooperation with GCC states and beyond.

Interfaith dialogue with Bahrain is also part of the agenda, with preparations for a Cyprus-GCC summit seen as a regional priority.

EU presidency

Cyprus has outlined key priorities as it takes over the EU Presidency, with a strong focus on security, migration, economic reform, and enlargement. Under its security pillar, Cy-

prus aims to redirect EU attention southwards through the Pact for the Mediterranean, emphasising maritime security, protection of critical sub-sea infrastructure, and energy projects in the Eastern Mediterranean as part of Europe's strategic autonomy.

Pact

Migration will remain high on the agenda, with Cyprus pushing for the practical implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, enhanced cooperation with North Africa and the Middle East, and expanded voluntary return programmes.

The Presidency will also lead complex negotiations on the EU's next long-term budget, seeking to balance competitiveness, defence spending, and social cohesion amid differing positions between major contributors and cohesion-fund beneficiaries.

On enlargement, Cyprus will continue facilitating discussions with Ukraine, Moldova, and Western Balkan candidates, positioning itself as a mediator in sensitive regional matters.



"Bahrain is the gateway to the Gulf, and Cyprus is the gateway to Europe."

— H.E. DR. ANDREAS ELIADES, CYPRUS' AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN

Official emblem for Year of Isa Al Kabeer launched

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Following the royal order issued by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa designating 2026 as the "Year of Isa Al Kabeer" in honour of Bahrain's founder of the modern state and key figure in its institutional development, the official emblem for the Year of Isa Al Kabeer was launched.

The emblem honours the late ruler's national contributions, including his role in consolidating stability, establishing legal and civil institutions, and promoting the nation's prosperity across all domains.

The emblem features an image of His Highness Isa Al Kabeer, who ruled Bahrain and its dependencies from 1869 to 1932, symbolising his enduring legacy, his pioneering role in establishing the modern Bahraini state, strengthening institutional governance, preserving stability, and safeguarding

national identity, connecting Bahrain's historic heritage with its ongoing path of development and progress.

Loyalty

His Excellency Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi, Minister of Information and Chairman of the Board of the National Communication Centre, affirmed that the launch of the "Year of Isa Al Kabeer" emblem reflects the royal order and embodies loyalty to Bahrain's history and leaders.

He noted that the occasion represents a national milestone to highlight the values established by Isa Al Kabeer, which continue to underpin the nation's development and civilisational approach under the leadership of His Majesty the King and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.



18 illegal workers detained, 127 other violators deported



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The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) announced the implementation of 342 inspection campaigns and visits, during the period of January 4-10, which resulted in the detention of 18 violating and irregular workers, while 127 violators were deported.

The inspection campaigns and visits also resulted in monitoring several violations related to the provisions of a number of regulating laws, especially the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and the Residency Laws in the Kingdom of Bahrain, noting that legal measures were taken regarding the observed violations.

The LMRA noted that 303 inspection visits were carried out on various shops in all governorates, in addition to 39 joint inspection campaigns, 20 campaigns in the Capital Governorate, 4 campaigns in the Muharraq Governorate, 4 campaigns in the Northern Governorate, and 11 campaigns in the Southern Governorate.

The government entities that participated in the campaigns are the Ministry of

Interior, represented by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA), the Governorate's respective Police Directorate, and the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Science, and the General Directorate of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing, as well as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the Social Insurance Organisation.

Coordination

The Authority affirmed the continuation of joint coordination with government agencies to intensify inspection campaigns in all governorates of the Kingdom, and to address any violations or practices that negatively affect the stability and competitiveness of the labour market or harm economic and social security of the Kingdom.

The LMRA called on the public to support the efforts to report labour violations via the electronic form on its website www.lmra.gov.bh or by calling the authority's call centre on 17506055 or via the government's Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul).

Bahrain promotes dialogue for peace, stability worldwide

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His Excellency Dr. Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, highlighted Bahrain's growing diplomatic influence on the global stage as the Kingdom marked Bahrain Diplomatic Day yesterday.

He praised the Kingdom's balanced and dialogue-driven approach, underpinned by strong international partnerships aimed at advancing peace, stability, and prosperity worldwide.

"Bahraini diplomacy has led a balanced and dialogue-driven approach, guided by the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the direction of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister," H.E. Dr. Al Zayani said, emphasising the Kingdom's commitment to principled foreign policy.

Congratulations

The Foreign Minister congratulated His Majesty the King and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, on the occasion.

He noted that the day reflects pride in Bahrain's diplo-



H.E. Dr. Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani

matic achievements, which are rooted in a rich civilisational heritage, noble human values, and principled political positions in support of human rights, regional security, and Arab and Islamic causes.

"This day reflects the Kingdom's dedication to promoting peace, security, and sustainable development for the benefit of humanity," he added.

Cooperation

H.E. Dr. Al Zayani underscored Bahrain's active role in international cooperation, citing its contributions to humanitarian work, environmental protection, climate change initiatives, and multilateral dialogue across religions and cultures.

ISB set to celebrate landmark 75th anniversary with grand cultural fair

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The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) is preparing to host its highly anticipated Platinum Jubilee Annual Cultural Fair at the Isa Town Campus on January 15 and 16, 2026.

This flagship event marks a historic milestone in the school's journey, celebrating seventy-five years of academic excellence, cultural enrichment, and dedicated community service within the Kingdom of Bahrain.

ISB Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese has extended a warm invitation to the public, parents, and alumni to participate in this momentous occasion.

Pride

He emphasized that the Platinum Jubilee year is a period of deep pride and reflection, honoring the school's growth from its modest beginnings into a premier institution that continues to nurture responsible global citizens rooted in Indian values.

The two-day festivities are scheduled to run from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. each evening.

The fair will officially commence on January 15 with an inaugural function, followed by a headline musical performance by the world-renowned



Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, ISB Chairman

South Indian keyboardist and composer Dr. Stephen Devassy and his team.

Concert

The celebration will continue on January 16 with a captivating concert by popular Indian singer Ms. Rupali Jagga, leading into the formal valedictory ceremony.

Organizers have ensured that meticulous arrangements are in place to provide a vibrant and seamless experience for all visitors.

Admission to the event is through entry tickets, and the school has implemented comprehensive safety measures, including full CCTV surveillance across the campus, to maintain a secure and pleasant environment for families and guests.