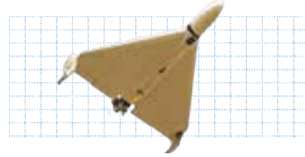


Italian PM Giorgia Meloni has openly criticized US President Donald Trump, calling his remarks about Pope Leo XIV "unacceptable" in a rare and pointed rebuke. The comments come after Trump accused the Pope of being "weak on crime" | P8

Seven Drones



The General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) announced that since the beginning of what it described as ongoing Iranian attacks, it has intercepted and destroyed 194 missiles and 516 drones targeting the Kingdom of Bahrain. Yesterday's latest update includes the addition of seven newly intercepted drones to the overall tally.

Two Remanded over BD 200,000 Antique Theft

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The Head of the Northern Governorate Prosecution stated that the Public Prosecution concluded its investigation into a complaint filed by a homeowner reporting the theft of antique items stored in his residence, which he used as a storage facility.

Investigations revealed that the two suspects exploited the owner's absence and managed to enter the property, stealing its contents over several stages. The stolen items, estimated at approximately BD 200,000, were later recovered in their possession.

The prosecution ordered their referral to trial while in custody and the return of the recovered items to their rightful owner.

BD 70,000 Fine

The Court of Cassation has upheld a final ruling sentencing a 52-year-old Bahraini company manager to six months in prison and ordering him to pay approximately BD 70,000 after being convicted in a value-added tax (VAT) evasion case.

The case dates back to his failure to settle VAT dues amounting to BD 35,327,319 over a period exceeding three years, despite submitting tax declarations during that time.

Earlier rulings by the Court of First Instance and the High Criminal Court of Appeal had ordered him to pay the outstanding tax along with fines, before the Court of Cassation confirmed the verdict, making it final and enforceable.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Defence Ties Deepen

A longstanding strategic partnership built on trust

● Defense, military, and multi-sector cooperation highlighted

● Focus on mutual security and stability concerns

● Advancing collaboration under CSIPA

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, received Admiral Charles Bradford Cooper II, Commander of the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), and his accompanying delegation during the Admiral's official visit to the Kingdom.

His Majesty welcomed the CENTCOM commander and reaffirmed the depth of the long-



standing strategic partnership between Bahrain and the United States, which spans decades. He emphasised that the bilateral relationship is founded on mutual trust, respect, and close coordination as trusted allies and partners.

Security Boost

The King highlighted the continued growth of cooperation between

the two countries across defence, military, and other key sectors, in line with shared interests and aspirations. He also reviewed with the US delegation the latest regional and international developments, along with a range of issues of mutual concern.

His Majesty further commended the important role played by the United States, alongside allied

nations, in promoting regional and global security and stability.

Security Alliance

Separately, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa also held discussions with the CENTCOM commander during the visit, reaffirming the strength of Bahrain-US relations and their strategic cooperation

across multiple sectors.

The Crown Prince highlighted the importance of advancing bilateral collaboration, particularly in defence and military fields, and building upon existing agreements, including the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (CSIPA).

He also noted that Bahrain-US cooperation has played a key role in addressing regional security challenges and countering hostile threats, while underscoring the need for continued coordination to enhance stability and prosperity.

The visit was attended by Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, His Highness Shaikh

Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Minister at the Prime Minister's Court, His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, and several senior officials.

"Model Of Unity"

Manama Talks Reinforce Bahrain-UAE Alliance

TDT | Manama

Strong bilateral relations and shared regional priorities took centre stage as His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa met with UAE President His Highness Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The discussions highlighted the longstanding partnership between Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, with both sides underscoring the strength of ties built on mutual trust, unity,

and shared values. His Majesty described the relationship as a leading example of cooperation between brotherly nations.

During the meeting, HM the King commended the UAE's consistent support and firm stance in promoting unity across the region. He praised the UAE leadership's clear vision and principled approach, noting its role in reinforcing joint efforts during challenging times.

Tribute was also paid to the sacrifices made by martyrs from both nations, reflecting a shared commitment to defending common



principles and strengthening their collective future.

Amid evolving regional developments, His Majesty expressed appreciation for the UAE's continued support, which has contributed to Bahrain's ability to respond effectively to various challenges. He reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to further advancing cooperation and deepening coordination across multiple sectors.

Both sides emphasised a unified vision aimed at enhancing regional stability and prosperity, while building on the legacy of strong ties established by their leaderships.

CABINET MEETING

April Wage Support Approved

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chaired the weekly Cabinet meeting and reviewed key measures focused on strengthening economic stability, labour market performance, and national resilience.

During the meeting, the Cabinet approved referring a draft law aimed at ensuring the payment of insured Bahraini employees' salaries in private sector companies for the month of April through the Unemployment Insurance Fund. The measure intends to protect job continuity, support the private sector, and reinforce overall economic stability.



The Cabinet also reaffirmed Bahrain's position on regional security, condemning hostile Iranian actions that threaten stability in the Gulf and the reopening of key maritime routes including the Strait of Hormuz.

On the economic front, the Cabinet reviewed Bahrain's

Quarterly Economic Report for 2025, which recorded real GDP growth of 3.5%, driven by a 4.1% expansion in non-oil sectors. Labour market indicators also showed steady progress toward national employment and training targets for Bahrainis.

To support financial stability,

the Cabinet commended Central Bank of Bahrain initiatives including loan repayment deferrals, liquidity support measures, and the currency swap agreement with the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates.

(Continue on page 6)

Other Key Cabinet Decisions

Bahrain-Switzerland investment protection agreement approved

New regulations endorsed for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs

Q1 2026 labour market indicators under National Labour Market Plan approved

Government responses reviewed on parliamentary draft laws and proposals

Quarterly economic report and international participation outcomes