

# Message of solidarity



The Foreign Minister and Ambassador Cauchard in their video messages

## French Ambassador, Foreign Affairs Minister deliver words of inspiration marking France’s National Day

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French Ambassador Jérôme Cauchard highlighted yesterday the long-standing solid and friendly relations between Bahrain and France, and hailed the recent phone conversation between His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and French President Emmanuel Macron as “another opportunity to strengthen links and develop joint action.”

Ambassador Cauchard was speaking in a video message to the Kingdom’s French community and Bahraini friends on the occasion of France’s National Day, also known as “Bastille Day”.

He said that the telephone conversation on July 9 between His Majesty the King and President Macron is a shining illustration of the high quality of relations between the two nations.

Ambassador Cauchard, who celebrates his first Bastille Day in Bahrain after taking office in October of last year, also highlighted the common determination to bolster cooperation in business, education, culture, sport, and other fields.

The French diplomat stressed the significance of solidarity during the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis and paid tribute to all those affected by the pandemic, and especially to those who have been committed, courageously, in the fight against

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER DR ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI

the virus, especially in providing care for the sick.

Annual festivities marking the occasion could not be held physically this year due to COVID-19; nevertheless, this special day for all French citizens was still being celebrated, Ambassador Cauchard said.

“The celebration of the French National Day, every year, gathers all of us around the French Republic, the three colors of its flag, national anthem, values, history, army, European commitment, and attention to multilateralism,” he expressed.

“This year, the celebration is different—we all understand why—due to the current sanitary crisis which has affected the world, in Bahrain just like anywhere else, and imposed to not act as usual.

“This year, our thoughts are with the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic, in France just like in

Bahrain, to their families and loved ones. Our thoughts are also with those, in France and in Bahrain, who fight every day the disease next to the patients to help them recover, and who accompany and remind them that human nature knows how to be generous and solidary.

“I also think of all of us who had to adapt our way of life, both personal and professional, to the constraints linked to the fight against the virus. And now again, on this vacation period, we have to deal with the various regulations limiting international travel.

“But all that does not prevent, I know, our hearts from beating a little stronger today, like every July 14. I said when I arrived last October that we should be proud to wear the colours of France.

“I say it even more strongly today; I say it even louder today.”

The virtual celebration was especially honored by a friendly message sent by Bahrain’s Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullahatif bin Rashid Al Zayani.

“We in the Kingdom of Bahrain are proud of the quality of cooperation and partnership with this friendly country, which embodies ancient civilisation, sophisticated culture and modern development,” the Foreign Minister said.

“We greatly appreciate the active and constructive role played by the French government and the positive contribution it has made to the preservation of regional and international security and stability, and we are always striving to strengthen bilateral cooperation with the French Republic, serving the common interests of both countries and friendly peoples.”

On the occasion of the national day celebration by the French Embassy in Bahrain, the Foreign Minister paid tribute to the efforts of Ambassador Cauchard and the members of the Embassy to strengthen and develop cooperation and communication.

“I commend the French community and the tangible efforts it has made to strengthen the longest relationship between the two friendly countries, and I wish the French people further progress and prosperity,” the Foreign Minister said.

## Foreign Ministry cooperation with BTEA stressed



Dr Shaikha Rana during the video conference

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Cooperation and coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority (BTEA) is crucial in promoting international tourism, especially in light of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

This is according to Foreign Ministry undersecretary Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, who said this yesterday during a video conference with BTEA CEO Nader Al Moayyed.

Dr Shaikha Rana said that endorsing Bahrain as a tourist destination abroad can be supported through the Kingdom’s embassies in various countries of the world, particularly amidst the COVID-19 pandemic which has drastically affected the sector.

Dr Shaikha Rana also expressed the readiness of the Foreign Ministry, through its missions, to attract and encourage the hosting of regional and international conferences, as well as trade fairs, in the Kingdom.

This would increase the contribution of the tourism sector to the development of the national economy, she said.

Dr Shaikha Rana expressed her appreciation for the efforts made by the BTEA in developing the tourism sector in Bahrain, and praised the important initiatives undertaken within the framework of the Kingdom’s Economic Vision 2030.

She reviewed important tourism components that Bahrain possesses, and its strategic position as a country attractive to Gulf and international travellers.

She stressed the importance of the Foreign Ministry’s support for various programmes aimed at achieving BTEA’s goals to enhance the position of the Kingdom as a leading tourism destination among the countries of the region.

On his part, the BTEA chief expressed his appreciation for the great support enjoyed by the BTEA from the Foreign Ministry, and stressed the importance of continued cooperation and coordination between the two parties to promote the tourism sector in the Kingdom.

## Ambassador to Netherlands issues statement on ICJ decision

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Bahrain’s Non-Resident Ambassador to the Netherlands Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohamed Al Khalifa said yesterday that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has delivered two judgments upholding the jurisdiction of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) over complaints filed by Qatar.

The first complaint was filed against Bahrain, Egypt, and the UAE, and the second against Bahrain, Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, concerning the sovereign legitimate measures adopted by the quartet within the framework of terminating diplomatic relations with Qatar in June 2017.

The ambassador expressed Bahrain’s full respect for the decisions of the ICJ and the principles of international law, in relation to preserving the security, safety and flow of air



Shaikh Fawaz

traffic.

He clarified that the two judgments relate to whether the ICAO has competence to hear the complaints brought by Qatar, under the Chicago Convention in 1944 and the Convention on International Air Services Transit, and thus the two judgments have no bearing on the substance of the dispute or the merits of the baseless Qatari claims which target the interests and security of the four abovementioned nations.

## Gemmology courses to be offered in Bahrain

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The Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT) has signed an agreement with Gem-A (The Gemmological Association of Great Britain), becoming the first Gem-A Accredited Teaching Centre in the Middle East.

For the first time, DANAT will offer Gem-A accredited Gemmology Foundation and Diploma courses, aimed at individuals pursuing a career in the jewellery industry.

Gem-A is the world’s long-



Jamsheer

est-running international provider of gem and jewellery education, with over 110 years of expertise in the field.

Gem-A CEO Alan Hart commented: “In many ways the foundations of Gem-A were laid thanks to the gemmological riches of the Gulf region.

“As natural pearls and cultured pearls began to compete in the marketplace, one of Gem-A’s founding fathers, Basil Anderson, created the world’s first gem testing laboratory to reassure customers and the trade.

“He understood that rigorous scientific knowledge was vital to the health of our trade and for maintaining consumer confidence in natural pearls from the Gulf, as well as gemstones from the wider world.

“Considering this heritage, we are thrilled that Gem-A has forged a new partnership with DANAT—an institution that reflects the pursuit for gemmological excellence that has long existed in Bahrain and the wider Gulf region.

“As a leader in pearl testing, authentication and verification, DANAT is ideally placed to serve as a Gem-A Accredited Teaching Centre (ATC) and embodies our values of gemmological excellence and scientific rigour.

“We look forward to learning from them in return and discovering more about the efforts to restore and preserve the natural pearling industry that is so ingrained in the history of the region.” DANAT CEO Noora Jamsheer said: “It is a matter of pride for DANAT to become the Middle East’s first Gem-A ATC, and it highlights our commitment to providing high quality educational opportunities in the field to the region.

“As a historic hub for pearl trading, Bahrain has a long and important association with gems and jewellery, and we are pleased to bring this tradition into the 21st century by offering this cutting-edge training.

“We are also proud to support the Government of Bahrain’s economic diversification.”

**Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT) has become the Middle East’s first Accredited Teaching Centre of Gem-A (The Gemmological Association of Great Britain), which is the world’s longest-running international provider of gem and jewellery education, with over 110 years of expertise**

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## BAHRAIN’S AMBASSADOR IN BERLIN PARTICIPATES IN KEY MEETING



Bahrain’s Ambassador to Germany Abdullah Abdullahif Abdullah participated in a virtual meeting with Germany’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs minister of state Miguel Berger. The meeting, at the level of heads of diplomatic missions in Berlin, discussed the priorities of Germany’s policy in the political, social and economic fields during its current presidency of the European Union and the UN Security Council, mainly after the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its significant global economic impact. The minister also touched on the role of Germany towards regional and international political and security issues. Left, Ambassador Abdullah during the meeting.