

HRH Prince Salman issues circular on Eid Al-Fitr holidays



HRH Prince Salman
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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday issued a circular on the Eid Al-Fitr holidays.

The circular stipulates that the Kingdom's ministries and public institutions will close on the day of Eid Al-Fitr and the two days that follow.

Since the official holidays will fall on a Friday and Saturday, they will be compensated by extending the holiday by two more days.

Death penalty for Iran 'spies'

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Public prosecutors demanded the death penalty for defendants accused of spying for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and providing it with sensitive information on key economic and residential sites in Bahrain.

Officials said the intelligence allegedly supplied by the defendants contributed to attacks on these locations during the Iranian aggression against the Kingdom.

During closing arguments before the competent court yesterday, the prosecution presented evidence it said confirmed the defendants' involvement

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Safe passage

GCC and UK ministers stress safeguarding regional skies and maritime routes

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Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the United Kingdom emphasised the importance of protecting regional airspace, maritime routes, and freedom of navigation.

They also highlighted the need to ensure the safety and security of supply chains, shipping operations, and seafarers, while safeguarding the stability of global energy markets.

The ministers underscored the intensive diplomatic efforts undertaken by GCC countries prior to the attacks and reaffirmed their commitment that their territories would not be used to launch attacks against Iran.

They highlighted the role of sustained dialogue and diplomacy in seeking a resolution to the crisis.

Meeting

The joint statement was issued following an extraordinary meeting chaired by His Excellency Dr. Abdul Latif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Foreign Minister of Bahrain, and attended by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Secretary, Her Excellency Yvette Cooper.

The ministers welcomed the adoption of United Nations



H.E. Dr. Al Zayani chairs the online meeting



Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026), which condemned Iranian attacks targeting GCC states and Jordan, including strikes on civilian areas and critical infrastructure, resulting in casualties and property damage.

Officials expressed gratitude to the UK for its steadfast sup-

port of GCC security and territorial integrity and praised the unprecedented international solidarity demonstrated by 136 UN member states backing the resolution.

Ministers reaffirmed the strategic partnership between the GCC and the UK, announced at the GCC-UK Summit in Bahrain

in 2016, and welcomed progress in ongoing free trade agreement negotiations.

Commitment

The ministers reiterated their commitment to regional stability, protection of civilians, and full adherence to international law and humanitarian obligations.

They urged Iran to halt its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, refrain from destabilizing activities, and cease interference in the internal affairs of states.

GCC ministers also affirmed the right of member states, individually and collectively, to defend themselves under Article 51 of the UN Charter and con-

demned any Iranian threats to maritime navigation in strategic waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait.

Security

Highlighting the broader implications, the ministers stressed that Gulf security is a cornerstone of global economic stability and closely linked to the security interests of the United Kingdom and the wider international community.

They commended the UK's contributions, including the recent deployment of Royal Air Force Typhoon aircraft to enhance defense capabilities in the region.



The GCC and UK ministers highlighted the role of sustained dialogue and diplomacy in seeking a resolution to the crisis.

Harmony appeal

MP calls for calm amid regional tensions

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

MP Jalal Kadhem called for an end to sectarian abuse and urged the public to direct comments on sensitive regional issues to the state bodies responsible for addressing them. He warned that "reckless rhetoric can fuel division inside Bahrain".

The lawmaker said Bahrain had long been known for coexistence and social accord, and said any speech that insults sects or

blames a whole group for the acts of a few people is "wrong and against the country's interest".

Kadhem said abuse, slander and insults traded on social media between people from the same society should not be dressed up as patriotism.

"True patriotism rests on sober words and measured speech that brings people together," he said, "not language that drives them apart or strips them of dignity." He said a personal mistake "must stay personal" and should

not be pinned on an entire sect or social group.

All parts of Bahraini society, he said, had helped build the



"True patriotism rests on sober words and measured speech that brings people together."
 — MP JALAL KADHEM

state and had played their part in its growth and stability over many years.

"Fairness means holding the

wrongdoer to account as an individual, not as part of a wider group," he said.

Linking some of the harsher exchanges to the strain across the region, Kadhem said regional tensions and conflict had split opinion between those who support different states.

That divide, he said, had spilled into debate in some societies and had reached Bahrain and other Gulf states through media rows and social media exchanges.

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