

Al Ahli Hold Firm as Riffa Strike Late

Matchweek 18 of the Nasser bin Hamad Premier League continued yesterday with Al Ahli edging Bahrain Club 2-1, while Riffa struck late to beat A'ali 1-0 and stay in the upper half of the table. | P12

Bahrain rebuts Iran allegations at UN

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Bahrain has firmly rejected allegations made by Iran in a letter submitted to the United Nations on April 13, 2026.

In a response addressed to the UN Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, Bahrain's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York reaffirmed the Kingdom's full commitment to international law while condemning what it described as unjustified Iranian attacks targeting Bahrain.

The communication marks the tenth in a series of official letters countering Iran's claims.

Bahrain said Iran continues to distort facts despite having used force against Gulf Cooperation Council states, noting that GCC members have collectively rejected such actions and called for de-escalation.

It also stressed that missile and drone attacks targeting residential areas and critical infrastructure in the Kingdom violate its sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the UN Charter, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law.

Sea Routes Protected



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Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain, has reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to safeguarding freedom of navigation across all international waterways, stressing the need to translate global consensus into concrete action.

Speaking at a high-level virtual summit on freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, Dr. Al Zayani said Bahrain will continue its diplomatic efforts and will submit a draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council aimed at securing maritime routes globally.

The summit, co-chaired by French President Emmanuel Macron and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, brought together leaders and officials from around 50 countries.

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Worst since 2nd World War

H.E. Shaikh Salman: 'economic terrorism' could shake global trade

● Over 5,000 missiles and drones launched in 40 days, targeting civilian and key infrastructure

● Bahrain warns of biggest global supply chain disruption risk in decades

● Strait of Hormuz flagged as critical chokepoint for global energy trade

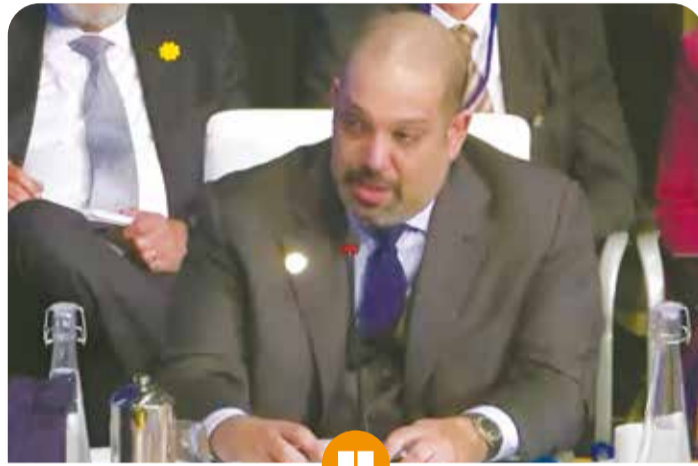
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After 40 days of sustained missile and drone attacks that rattled regional security and disrupted global supply chains, Bahrain's Finance Minister warned that the crisis now poses the most serious threat to international trade since the Second World War.

Speaking at the Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa described what he called an unprecedented wave of attacks targeting Gulf Cooperation Council nations and the Kingdom of Jordan.

He said the assault lasted "40 days and 40 nights," involving more than 5,000 missiles and drones, with over 1,000 launched within the first 24 hours alone. According to the minister, the strikes—attributed to Iran—targeted both civilian and strategic infrastructure.

"Residential areas, educa-



Any attempt to obstruct the Strait of Hormuz is an act of economic terrorism

H.E. SHAIKH SALMAN BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA



U.S. Air Force F-16s conduct readiness patrols across the U.S. Central Command area, reinforcing the forward military posture in the Middle East.

tional institutions, commercial buildings, airports, ports, power plants, oil and gas infrastructure, and other critical facilities were hit," he said, noting that the attacks resulted in loss of life, injuries, and extensive damage. Despite the scale of the assault, Shaikh Salman praised the response of national institutions and the resilience of citizens and residents. "Today, we stand strong, proud of our armed forces, our security and civil defence institutions, and our communities," he said.

He also acknowledged the support of international partners, expressing gratitude to regional allies as well as the United States and other global partners for standing "shoulder to shoulder" in defence of the region.

Turning to global implications, the minister issued a stark warning over maritime security, particularly any attempts to disrupt the Strait of Hormuz. He described such actions as "economic terrorism," stressing that the waterway carries more than 20 per cent of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas, along with significant volumes of aluminium and fertiliser exports.

He cautioned that any prolonged disruption could trigger the largest shock to global supply chains in decades.

Highlighting diplomatic developments, Shaikh Salman pointed to the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2817, calling it a "historic" step that sends a clear international message.

He urged a coordinated global response to the unfolding crisis, calling for stronger international cooperation to address both security and economic risks.

The minister also stressed the need to advance broader regional diplomacy, including efforts towards a durable ceasefire in Lebanon and improved humanitarian conditions in Gaza. He framed the situation as a defining moment for the international community.

"This is a conflict between those who seek a peaceful and prosperous future and those who seek to drag the region backwards," he said.

Reinforcing the urgency of the moment, Shaikh Salman called on global institutions to step up support. "We call on the World Bank and the international community to support us," he added, underscoring the need for sustained cooperation to restore stability.

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Iran's assault lasted "40 days and 40 nights," involving more than 5,000 missiles and drones, with over 1,000 launched within the first 24 hours alone

Toxic Profit

Five convicted in expired food scam, warehouses shut

● Owner fined BD103,000

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Second Lower Criminal Court has convicted five defendants in a case involving the sale of expired food. The

company owner was fined BD103,000, while four Asian workers received prison terms of six months to one year, followed by permanent deportation.

Warehouses closed
The court ordered the destruction of spoiled goods and confiscation of tools used. Two warehouses were shut for six months, with the ruling to be

published at the defendants' expense once final.

The group was found guilty of repackaging expired food, altering expiry dates, and selling the items without proper licences.

Tip-off leads to raid
The case began with a complaint to Hamad Town Police Station. Inspectors from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce raided the warehouse,

seizing relabelled goods, and later uncovered a second site used for both food storage and unauthorised activities.

The Public Prosecution detained the suspects, seized the facilities, and assigned experts to trace affected products before referring the case to court.

Authorities warned that such practices pose serious risks to public health and food safety.

Peace in Congo must go beyond promises: Bahrain

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Bahrain led a meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the ongoing crisis in Africa's Great Lakes region, stressing the urgent need for a ceasefire in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

UN officials briefed members on the latest situation, noting that while peace talks are showing some progress, tensions and violence on the ground continue.

Speaking for Bahrain, diplomat Soma Al Alaiwat said this is a critical moment. She called for armed groups in eastern DRC to withdraw from occupied areas and urged stronger protection for civilians. She also highlighted the need to allow aid to reach those in need and to address deeper issues like illegal mining and armed conflict.

Al Alaiwat emphasised that women must play a bigger role in peace efforts, praising initiatives that bring their voices into decision-making.

She concluded by saying peace should be judged not by agreements on paper, but by real improvements in people's lives, calling for faster and more effective action on the ground.



US says Israel 'prohibited' by US from bombing Lebanon

Las Vegas, United States

President Donald Trump said yesterday the United States had "prohibited" Israel from bombing Lebanon following a ceasefire deal, adding that Washington would work with Lebanon to "deal with" Hezbollah. "Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer. They are PROHIBITED from doing so by the U.S.A. Enough is enough!!!" Trump said on his Truth Social network, a day after announcing the 10-day truce.

