

## HM King and HRH Prince Salman thanked by Japan Emperor

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of thanks from Emperor Naruhito of Japan in response to HM's birthday congratulations.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, also received a cable of thanks from Emperor Naruhito, in reply to HRH's congratulations on his birthday.

## Kuwait Premier cable of thanks



Kuwait Prime Minister

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday received a cable of thanks from the Prime Minister of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah, in reply to HRH's condolences following the passing of Sheikhha Nouria Ahmad Al Jaber Al Mubarak Al Sabah.

# HM King hails historic Bahraini-Saudi relations



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday received the Saudi Minister of Interior, HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who conveyed to HM the King, greetings from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister, who wished the people of Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa took pride in the deep-rooted historic and fraternal relations binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well their leaders and brotherly peoples.

He commended the honourable Saudi stances, led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in support of Bahrain, embodying solid historic ties, which are based on fraternity and solidarity between the two brotherly countries and peoples.

HM the King made the statement yesterday as he received, at Sakhir Palace, Saudi Interior

Minister His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who conveyed to HM the King, greetings from Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and Defence Minister, who wished the people of Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

The Saudi Minister congratulated HM the King on the Holy Month of Ramadan, wishing His Majesty, the country and its people many happy returns.

HM the King welcomed the Saudi Minister, extending his greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and HRH the Crown Prince. He

wished the brotherly Saudi people further progress and prosperity, stressing the importance of such brotherly visits in strengthening joint cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

HM the King hailed the dedicated efforts of King Salman to further bolster joint Bahraini-Saudi relations, commending the pioneering Saudi role to strengthen the pillars of security, stability and peace in the region and protect the interests of its countries and peoples.

HM the King and the Saudi Minister of Interior reviewed the current developments unfolding in the region, in addition to issues of common interest.

## Focus on ways to reinforce joint security performance



General Shaikh Rashid with the Saudi Interior Minister

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Ways to reinforce joint security performance and stability to protect national accomplishments and regional security were discussed during last night's first meeting of the Bahraini-Saudi Security and Military Committee.

The committee is one of the five panels of the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Saudi Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence.

The meeting was co-chaired by Saudi Interior Minister His Royal Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The security and military coordination committee reviewed topics decided by the council. It announced recommendations and initiatives, including reinforcing cyber-

security cooperation and facilitating goods and trucks traffic procedures through the borders and the issuance of visiting visas for visitors between the two countries.

The meeting discussed implementing the one-point system in each country to facilitate the crossing of travellers through the King Fahad Causeway.

The crossing of citizens of both countries at air borders and the e-linkage of traffic fines and building electronic capabilities between operations rooms of the Interior Ministries of both countries was also discussed.

Both sides expressed their appreciation of the achieved outcomes of the meeting, asserting the importance to continue with joint security and military work for the best interests of the two countries and the achievement of the inspirations of the leaderships of both countries to support and develop various ties.

The meeting's results and initiatives will be referred to the preparatory committee to study them and refer the suitable ones to the council to decide the required procedures.

# Value of local product exports increases

Up by 18% to reach BD684 million during the first quarter of 2021, according to iGA foreign trade report

● Value of imports up by 3% during first quarter of 2021

● Trade balance records deficit totalling BD442 million

● Total value of re-exports down by 20% to reach BD185 million

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Bahrain's value of exports of national origin has increased by 18% to reach BD684 million during the first quarter of 2021, up from BD580 million for the same period of the previous year.

The value of imports increased by 3%, reaching BD1.312 billion during the first quarter of 2021 compared with BD1.272 billion for the same quarter the previous year.

This was according to the Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) foreign trade report of the first quarter of 2021, encompassing data on the balance of trade, imports, exports



Bahrain exports BD684 million worth of products

(national origin), and re-exports. The trade balance, difference between exports and imports, recorded a deficit totalling BD442 million during first quarter of 2021 compared with BD460 million for the same quarter of the previous year, an improvement of 4%.

The top 10 countries in terms of the value of exports of national origin purchased from Bahrain accounted for 80% of the total value, with the remaining countries accounting for 20%. Saudi Arabia ranked first

among countries receiving Bahraini exports of national origin, importing BD153 million from Bahrain. The UAE was second with BD76 million and the US third with BD71 million.

Agglomerated iron ores and concentrates emerged as the top products exported during first quarter of 2021 with BD150 million, unwrought aluminum alloys was second with a value of BD106 million, and aluminum wires (not alloyed) third with BD42 million.

According to the report, the top 10 countries accounted for 72% of the value of imports, with the remaining countries accounting for 28%.

Brazil ranked first with BD175 million, followed by China with BD162 million and the UAE with BD102 million.

Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates was the top product imported into Bahrain with a total value of BD169 million, while aluminum oxide was



second with BD93 million, and four-wheel drive cars third with BD49 million.

The total value of re-exports decreased by 20% to reach BD185 million in the first quarter of 2021, compared with BD233 million for the same quarter of the previous year.

The top 10 countries accounted for 89% of the re-exported value, while the remaining countries accounted for the 11%.

The UAE ranked first with BD61 million, followed by Saudi Arabia with BD49 million, and Oman with BD19 million.

Four-wheel drive cars were the top product re-exported from Bahrain with BD26 million, agglomerated iron ores and concentrates were second with BD22 million, and apparatus for electrical control third with BD13 million.