

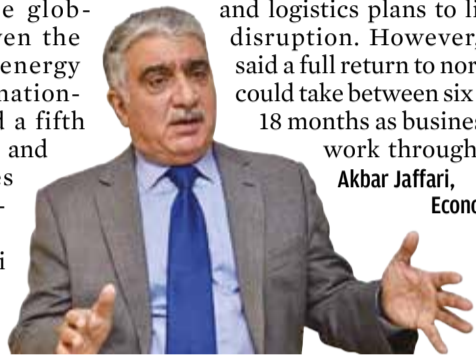
# Trade relief in sight as Hormuz reopens

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Economists have said the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and the return of normal shipping will ease pressure on Bahrain's economy, with freight and insurance costs expected to fall after weeks of strain on trade routes.

They said the move would also benefit the global economy, given the strait's role in energy flows and international trade. Around a fifth of the world's oil and gas trade passes through the waterway.

Akbar Jaffari said the closure had disrupted supply chains,



Akbar Jaffari,  
Economist

increased shipping, export and storage costs, and left many businesses struggling to move goods to overseas markets.

While the impact was felt across the Gulf, Bahrain faced particular challenges because of its location within the affected zone, he said.

Mr Jaffari noted that major industrial firms had adapted quickly, shifting operations and logistics plans to limit disruption. However, he said a full return to normal could take between six and 18 months as businesses

work through recovery measures.

recovery measures.

Bahrain also demonstrated its ability to adapt under pressure, with some trade rerouted through ports in Oman, the UAE and Saudi Arabia to keep goods moving and reduce the impact on local markets.

The reopening of the strait is expected to gradually lower shipping and logistics costs, improving the competitiveness of Bahraini businesses and supporting trade with international markets.

Large corporations and smaller firms alike stand to benefit. While major manufacturers absorbed higher operating costs during the disruption, small and medium-sized enterprises relied on alternative routes to maintain exports, often at a significant expense.

Noura Al Faihani said the reo-



opening would have implications far beyond the Gulf, as the Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most important maritime corridors.

Restored shipping stability, she said, would reduce geopolitical risks linked to transport,

insurance and energy markets, helping ease price pressures and support global economic activity.

Lower transport and energy costs are also expected to improve production efficiency and strengthen supply chains, bene-

fitting businesses and consumers alike.

Ms Al Faihani said Bahrain was well placed to benefit because of its strategic location and established transport network. The kingdom's ability to manage logistics challenges during the disruption had reinforced investor confidence in its business environment.

With a number of local and regional companies pursuing expansion plans and overseas investor interest continuing to grow, calmer conditions are expected to support new projects and attract further investment.

She said the reopening of the strait offers Bahrain an opportunity to accelerate growth, strengthen its position as a regional logistics hub and build on the resilience demonstrated during the crisis.

## Security grows through partnership, says Al Musallam

TDT | Manama

Lasting peace and security cannot be achieved in isolation but through strong partnerships and international cooperation, Parliament Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam said yesterday.

Addressing the opening session of the fourth Marrakech Parliamentary Economic Forum for the Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf region, Al Musallam said Bahrain's foreign policy is rooted in the belief that constructive cooperation remains the most effective path to stability and sustainable development.

He said the Kingdom, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and with the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman



bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, continues to strengthen ties with Mediterranean and European countries to advance shared interests and regional stability.

Highlighting Bahrain's position at the heart of the Arabian Gulf, Al Musallam stressed that

maritime security and economic security are closely linked, while freedom of navigation remains essential to global trade and prosperity.

He noted that economic and political developments are increasingly interconnected, making cooperation between na-

tions vital in addressing regional challenges and managing global change.

The Speaker said the Marrakech forum provides an important platform to discuss economic transformations, explore strategic opportunities and deepen regional collaboration.

He added that stronger Euro-Mediterranean and Gulf cooperation could unlock new opportunities for economic integration and bring countries and peoples closer together.

The forum, held in Marrakech on June 19 and 20, is organised by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and Morocco's House of Councillors in partnership with the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.



Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfeeqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, during talks with Jason Isaacson, Chief Policy and Political Affairs Officer of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), and his accompanying delegation. The minister reviewed Bahrain's efforts to empower young people and enhance their participation in the comprehensive development process.

## Pet abusers face jail, BD2,000 fine

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

People who abuse, torture or kill pets without lawful cause can face imprisonment and fines of up to BD2,000 under Bahrain's animal protection laws, lawyer Zainab Al Barri has said.



Zainab Al Barri, lawyer

Ms Al Barri said Article 14 of the Law Regulating the Keeping of Pets, Dangerous Animals and Fierce Dogs prohibits harming, mistreating or killing pets, as well as failing to provide proper food, veterinary care and required vaccinations.

Under Article 16, offenders may face jail, a fine of up to BD2,000, or both penalties.

She said anyone found to have abused or killed a pet, including a cat, without lawful reason could be held criminally liable, with punishment determined by the court.

Ms Al Barri also cited Article 415 of Bahrain's Penal Code, which provides for up to one

year in prison or a fine of up to BD100 for intentionally killing or seriously harming a domesticated animal without cause.

The offence includes acts such as beating, poisoning, burning, starving, gross neglect and other conduct that causes physical or psychological harm.

She said pet protection is both a legal and moral responsibility, stressing that owners must provide food, water, shelter and proper health-care, while avoiding neglect or abuse.

Ms Al Barri called for strict enforcement of the law and greater public awareness of animal welfare.

## New marriage no automatic barrier to custody

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A divorced mother in Bahrain does not automatically lose custody of her children if she remarries, lawyer Jassim Al Issa has said.

He said Bahrain's Family Law places the child's welfare above all other considerations, leaving the final decision to the court.

Under Article 127 of Law No. 19 of 2017, a Sunni mother married to a man unrelated to the child may retain custody if the

court finds it serves the child's best interests.

Mr Al Issa said judges examine each case individually, considering factors such as the child's home environment, care, education and overall wellbeing rather than the marriage itself.

Under the Jaafari school, a mother's right to custody generally falls upon remarriage, but the court may still allow the child to remain with her if that is deemed best for the child.

He said the law does not impose a fixed rule based solely



Jassim Al Issa, lawyer

on remarriage, but gives courts discretion to decide according to the circumstances of each

family.

Article 130 also allows judges to seek advice from social and psychological specialists when determining custody arrangements.

Mr Al Issa said the widespread belief that a mother automatically loses custody when she remarries is not an accurate reading of Bahraini law.

A new marriage may trigger a court review, but custody can remain with the mother if the judge concludes that doing so best protects the child's welfare.

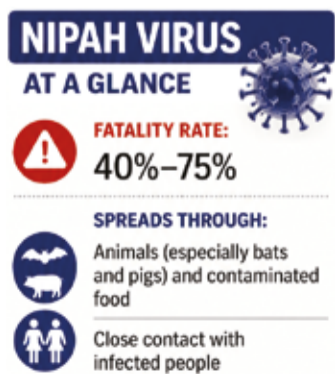
## A friend in need: Bahrain steps up in Kerala's hour of need

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When the southern Indian state of Kerala faced an urgent shortage of a key medicine used to combat Nipah, Bahrain stepped in, delivering the drug on short notice.

The swift intervention was revealed by Kerala Chief Minister V. D. Satheesan, who said the state was unable to source Ribavirin, an antiviral drug considered an important part of Nipah outbreak management, despite its significance in emergency response plans.

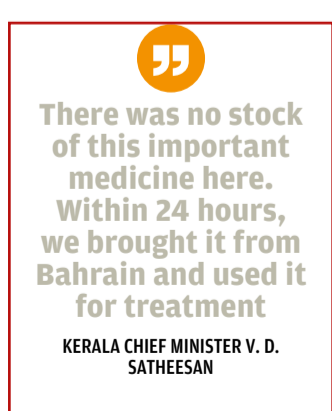
"There was no stock of this



important medicine here. Within 24 hours, we brought it from Bahrain and used it for treatment," Satheesan said.

The rapid procurement helped plug a critical gap in supplies and ensured the medicine was available when needed most. Authorities later distributed the drug across Kerala's healthcare network to strengthen readiness for future outbreaks.

The significance of the Bahrain-supplied drug is underscored by the treatment currently being administered to Kerala's lone confirmed Nipah patient at Kozhikode Government Medical College Hospital. The patient is receiving a combination of Ribavirin, Remde-



sivir and monoclonal antibody therapy as doctors battle the highly infectious virus.



Nipah is among the world's most dangerous infectious diseases, with a fatality rate that

can exceed 70 per cent in some outbreaks. The virus can cause severe respiratory illness and inflammation of the brain, and there is currently no widely available approved vaccine.

Although Ribavirin is not a cure, it is regarded as an important antiviral medicine in outbreak response and is often stockpiled in regions vulnerable to the disease.

The episode offered a striking example of cross-border cooperation in public health, with Bahrain stepping in at short notice to provide a medicine that was unavailable locally.