

HM King hails growing Bahrain-Lebanon relations

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa praised the strong fraternal relations between Bahrain and Lebanon, noting that bilateral cooperation continues to advance across various fields in ways that serve mutual interests.

HM the King was speaking as he received His Excellency Ahmed Mohammed Hajjar, Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon, at Sakhir Palace yesterday.

The meeting took place during the minister's official visit to the Kingdom, during which he conveyed the greetings and appreciation of Lebanese Pres-

ident General Joseph Aoun, along with his best wishes for Bahrain's continued progress and prosperity.

Greetings

His Majesty welcomed the Lebanese minister and asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Aoun and the brotherly Lebanese people, wishing them continued development and growth.

During the meeting, HM King Hamad highlighted that such visits reflect the shared commitment to strengthening coordination and joint action, particularly in the security sector, to achieve common benefit.



HM the King with H.E. Ahmed Mohammed Hajjar

He reaffirmed Bahrain's steadfast support for Lebanon, emphasising its commitment to stability, unity, sovereignty, and preserving Lebanon's security, territorial integrity, as well as

safeguarding the interests of its people.

Gratitude

For his part, the Lebanese Minister expressed his deep gratitude for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

He commended Bahrain's supportive stance toward Lebanon under the leadership of His Majesty, praising its efforts to maintain Lebanon's unity and security.

H.E. Hajjar also reiterated Lebanon's desire to further strengthen bilateral relations with Bahrain across multiple sectors for the mutual benefit of both countries and their peoples.

'His Legacy and Biography' exhibition inaugurated

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His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa yesterday inaugurated the exhibition "His Legacy and Biography", dedicated to His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, held at the Bahrain National Museum.

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman affirmed the importance of documenting the lives of important figures that have contributed to the Kingdom's development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and supported by the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad



HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the event

Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, noting that these contributions are deeply rooted in the Kingdom's long-standing legacy. He hailed the designation of 2026 as the "Year of Isa Al Ka-beer".

Manama declared Young Arab Entrepreneurs Capital for 2026

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His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, attended a ceremony organised by the Capital Governorate to mark Manama being named the Arab Young Arab Entrepreneurs for 2026, a designation approved by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The event was also attended by Her Excellency Rawan bint Najib Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, alongside a number of Their Excellencies, Their Highnesses, officials, and



HH Shaikh Nasser attends the ceremony

representatives of regional and international bodies focused on entrepreneurship and youth empowerment.

HH Shaikh Nasser said that Manama's selection reflects the wise vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Labour collaboration

LMRA hosts GCC-East Africa Symposium on responsible recruitment and anti-trafficking

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The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and in partnership with the Executive Bureau of the GCC Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs, organised a two-day Symposium on Responsible Recruitment and Combatting Trafficking in Persons.

The event, titled Fostering Collaboration between the Gulf Cooperation Council and East and Horn of Africa, took place on January 18-19, bringing together stakeholders to enhance cooperation and address critical labour and human trafficking issues.

The symposium brought together more than 120 participants from GCC countries and the East and Horn of Africa, including government officials, recruitment agencies, private sector representatives, and technical and vocational education and training institutions.

Cooperation

Through interactive sessions, panel discussions, and network-



Participants from GCC countries and the East and Horn of Africa



ing activities, the symposium aimed to strengthen cross-regional cooperation to promote ethical and responsible recruitment practices, advance decent work, enhance skills mobility, and reinforce safeguards against

trafficking in persons.

In his opening remarks, His Excellency Nibras Talib, Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and Chairman of the National Committee for Combating

trafficking in persons, emphasised the importance of shared responsibility across recruitment corridors, noting: "This symposium reflects our collective commitment to promoting ethical and responsible recruit-

ment practices, strengthening the protection of workers' rights, and enhancing cross-border cooperation.

"Combating trafficking in persons requires addressing risks across the entire recruitment

and employment cycle, recognizing that such practices often originate in countries of origin or transit. Strengthening cooperation between the GCC and the East and Horn of Africa is essential to improving recruitment systems, enhancing worker protection, and advancing decent work in line with international standards."

Skills

Mohammed bin Hassan Al Obaidli, Director General of the Executive Bureau, affirmed that GCC countries attach great importance to aligning labour market needs with workforce skills.

This includes investing in training, adopting objective professional standards, and linking wages to competency and skills.

He added that these measures contribute to human capital development and support pathways toward sustainable economic and social development.

"Responsible recruitment builds trust and resilience across labour markets. By aligning regional efforts with international frameworks, we can support ethical recruitment practices," said Aishath Ihma Shareef, IOM Chief of Mission in Bahrain.