

Bahrain, Austria Discuss Hormuz Crisis

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Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs received a phone call on Wednesday from Beate Meinel-Reisinger, Federal Minister for European & International Affairs of Austria to discuss rising regional tensions and their impact on global security and trade.



They discussed the consequences of Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz to maritime navigation, with both sides addressing the potential impact on the global economy, international trade and energy and food supply chains.

Camps Handover Complete

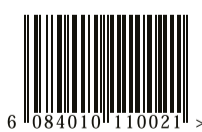


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Bahrain's Hajj Mission has completed the handover of designated camps in Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah to Bahraini Hajj tour operators ahead of the Hajj season.

Dr. Mohammed Taher Al Qattan, Deputy Head of the mission, said the process followed detailed site inspections to ensure full readiness and compliance with safety and security standards set by the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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History Made Today

Bahrain joins a handful of nations in successfully delivering the cutting-edge Casgevy therapy

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received Amjad Kazem Ahmed at Riffa Palace.

Ahmed is the first Bahraini citizen, and the first patient outside the United States, to successfully complete treatment for sickle cell disease using Casgevy, a groundbreaking CRISPR gene-editing therapy delivered through bone marrow transplantation.

The historic treatment was carried out entirely within the Kingdom of Bahrain, placing the country among a select group of nations to have successfully implemented this advanced medical procedure.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness warmly welcomed Amjad Kazem Ahmed and expressed the Kingdom's unwavering commitment—under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa—to advancing healthcare and embracing the latest medical technologies in service of Bahraini citizens.



The Crown Prince and Prime Minister stressed the vital role of international partnerships and collaboration with specialised health organisations in expanding access to cutting-edge treatments, noting that delivering a procedure of this complexity requires not only advanced infrastructure but a highly skilled national

medical workforce — both of which Bahrain has steadily built and invested in. His Royal Highness paid tribute to Team Bahrain and the Kingdom's healthcare institutions, whose achievements,

he said, are a direct reflection of Bahrain's long-term vision for world-class healthcare. He called for continued efforts to elevate Bahrain's medical and treatment services in line with the highest international benchmarks.

Speaking at the meeting, Amjad Kazem Ahmed expressed heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty the King for his unwavering support for citizens and his commitment to strengthening the healthcare sector.

He also extended his sincere appreciation to His Royal Highness for his personal efforts in ensuring citizens have access to the most advanced treatment options available.

Amjad Kazem Ahmed praised the dedicated medical team and national professionals whose skill and expertise made his recovery possible, describing his successful treatment through CRISPR gene-editing therapy as a proud new chapter in Bahrain's growing list of healthcare achievements.

Boost for UK-Bahrain trade and investment



This landmark deal supports the GCC's vision for deeper economic integration, sustainable development and expanded trade and investment opportunities for our region
 H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce

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The United Kingdom and the Gulf Cooperation Council concluded negotiations on a



A landmark moment for Bahrain as the UK-GCC Free Trade Agreement is formally concluded, opening new doors for trade, investment and opportunity.

landmark Free Trade Agreement, marking a historic first between the GCC and any G7 nation.

The deal covers all six GCC members — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — and is projected to boost bilateral UK-GCC trade by nearly 20%, adding £15.5 billion annually. Existing UK-Bahrain trade in goods and services stands at £1.3 billion and the agreement builds on the existing £2 billion UK-Bahrain Strategic Investment and Collaboration Partnership.

For Bahrain, the deal delivers immediate tariff removal on all current exports to the UK, streamlined customs procedures, and new market access for services firms.

Financial sector businesses, including fintech, banking and insurance companies, benefit from groundbreaking commitments on the free flow of financial data. Professionals — engineers, lawyers and accountants among them — gain clearer pathways for cross-border work through mutual recognition of qualifications and streamlined

visa arrangements.

British consumers gain easier, cheaper access to Gulf products, while Bahraini consumers will find UK food and drink — from smoked salmon to cheddar — more affordable. UK food and drink exports to Bahrain are currently valued at £32 million annually.

British Ambassador to Bahrain H.E. Alastair Long called it "a historic milestone in UK-Bahrain relations," adding that the agreement would unlock further opportunities across financial services, technology, clean en-



This agreement will help unlock further opportunities across financial services, technology, clean energy and education.
 H.E. Alastair Long, British Ambassador to Bahrain

ergy, healthcare and education.

Meanwhile, Paula Boast, Vice Chair of the British Chamber of Commerce Bahrain, welcomed the conclusion of the negotiations, saying Bahraini businesses were ready to benefit from the deal's operational and commercial advantages. (Read More on Page 7)

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