

**NATO Dispute**

Rubio criticises NATO allies for refusing to support US action on Iran as Spain blocks base access. | **P6**

FRIDAY  
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New Parking Permit System Proposed in Old Muharraq Priority Access

AFC U20 Qualifiers draw set for 28 May in Kuala Lumpur

SPORT

BUSINESS

StartUp Bahrain Pitch Event Highlights Strong Entrepreneurial Momentum

**Foreign Minister Praises Royal Vision**



Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah bin Rashid Al Zayani praised initiatives led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to promote peace, dialogue and cultural coexistence.

Marking the International Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, he said Bahrain's efforts help strengthen regional stability and support sustainable development.

He also highlighted the role of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa in promoting values of human fraternity and respect for cultural and religious diversity.

Minister Al Zayani said Bahrain continues to champion intercultural and interfaith dialogue through international conferences and global partnerships, describing dialogue as key to peace and development.

**25% cut in service times**

Bahrain developed 64 government services across 14 public entities between January 15 and May 21 as part of ongoing efforts to improve service delivery and enhance efficiency.

The upgrades are part of a wider programme to restructure procedures and expand digital transformation across government services.

Key improvements include streamlined housing procedures, digital submission of university certificates and transcripts with QR verification, and faster approvals for private sector planning and health licensing services.

Authorities said the reforms reduced service delivery times by at least 25%, simplified application processes, and cut required documents by 50%. Most services are now fully digitised, with unified information across government platforms.

## Bahrain-US Strategic Ties

HM King receives written message from U.S. President

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a written message from Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, praising the deep historical ties and close strategic partnership between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States.

The US President expressed admiration for the national

unity in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the solidarity of its people, underscoring his country's firm commitment to supporting the security and stability of the Gulf region amid Iran's continued aggression and blatant violations of international law.

HE President Trump also wished continued security, peace, and prosperity to His Majesty the King and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain.



**New Board for Al Ahli**



His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), President of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), issued Edict (5) of 2026 appointing a temporary board of directors for Al Ahli Sports Club.

The temporary board will serve for one year and will be chaired by Khalid Ibrahim Ali Kanoo. Members include Yousif Hassan Yousif Al Arabi, Bader Nasser Mohammed Hussain, Beshara Abdo Fath Al Rahman Beshara, Nawaf Fouad Abdulali Al Jishi, Tariq Mohammed Ali Taqi, Mohammed Nabeel Salem Abdullah Al Shurooqi, and Adnan Ibrahim Abdullah Showaiter.

## New Era in Gulf-UK Trade

Welcomed progress Free Trade Agreement and Joint Statement

● Praised Bahrain's negotiation team

● Urged deeper bilateral cooperation

● Commended the UK's security role

● Reviewed regional, global developments

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, today met with His Excellency Alastair Long, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Bahrain, at Riffa Palace.

His Royal Highness affirmed the depth of the longstanding and historic relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom, highlighting the continued progress of bilateral cooperation across various sectors, including through

strategic partnerships and joint agreements such as the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA).

During the meeting, His Royal Highness underscored the importance of deepening cooperation and promoting future opportunities that advance collaboration between both countries.

His Royal Highness commended the progress achieved in the GCC-UK Free Trade Agreement, in which negotiations concluded with the signing of a Joint Statement. His Royal Highness affirmed that the agreement would contribute to strengthening the economic partnership between the GCC and the United Kingdom, supporting the visions and aspirations of the GCC member states.

In this regard, His Royal Highness expressed his appreciation to HE Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, for his dedicated efforts, which contributed to achieving this strategic milestone, during the Kingdom of Bahrain's presidency of the 46th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council. His Royal Highness also expressed his appreciation



to the national task force involved in the negotiations, comprising representatives from several government entities.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister commended the strength of the Bahrain-UK partnership, highlighting its significant role in supporting efforts to combat the hostile Iranian aggression.

His Royal Highness also highlighted the UK's role, alongside

allied countries, in safeguarding security and stability, and supporting regional and international development.

The meeting also reviewed the latest regional and international developments, as well as other issues of common interest.

His Excellency Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, also attended the meeting.

**Fatal Accident**



Authorities reported that an Asian cyclist was killed in a tragic road accident on Budaiya Highway near Saar on Thursday.

The incident occurred on a busy stretch of the highway connecting several residential areas, prompting an immediate response from emergency services.

**National Hajj Mission**

## Bahrain Hajj Mission Opens Medical Clinic in Mecca

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The Bahrain Hajj Mission's medical committee has opened a medical clinic in Mecca to provide healthcare services for Bahraini pilgrims throughout the Hajj season.

The clinic has begun receiving patients and will operate around the clock to offer medical treatment, preventive care and health support to pilgrims performing the annual pilgrimage.



Dr Ibrahim Farooq Obaid, head of the medical committee of Bahrain's Hajj mission, said the team was working collectively to

deliver integrated, high-quality healthcare services aimed at helping pilgrims perform their rituals with ease and reassurance.

tee was coordinating closely with Bahrain's Hajj mission, headed by Sheikh Adnan Al Qattan, to ensure cooperation among all

He said the committee had completed its operational and technical preparations under a comprehensive plan covering preventive, therapeutic and emergency healthcare services.

Obaid said the medical committee was coordinating closely with Bahrain's Hajj mission, headed by Sheikh Adnan Al Qattan, to ensure cooperation among all

He added that the committee seeks every year to further develop the level of healthcare services in line with the highest medical and organisational standards, with the clinic continuing operations throughout the Hajj season.

Obaid also expressed appreciation for Saudi Arabia's efforts in serving pilgrims and providing advanced facilities and services to help them perform Hajj safely and smoothly.

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