



Bahrain expresses sympathy with flood-hit India and Bangladesh

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has expressed its sympathy with India and Bangladesh due to the floods that swept the north-east parts of both countries several days ago.

The floods caused the collapse of several bridges, roads, buildings, homes, infrastructure and power outages, leading to many deaths and injuries.

Foreign Affairs Ministry expressed its condolences to the families of the victims, and to both countries' governments and peoples.

Six Palestinian jailbreakers get five years in jail

Tel Aviv

An Israeli court yesterday sentenced six Palestinian inmates to five years in prison for tunneling out of their cell last year and escaping from a high-security facility in the biggest prison break of its kind in decades.

The jailbreak sparked a massive manhunt in the country's north and the occupied West Bank in search for the men, who were members of Palestinian militant groups.

They were recaptured days later.

The bold escape dominated newsfeeds, sparked heavy criticism of Israel's prison service and prompted the government to launch an inquiry.

Strategic alliance

Saudi Arabia and US reiterate common vision to confront Iranian threats in the region

Washington

Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman Al Saud and US State Secretary Antony Blinken have affirmed their countries' common vision to confront Iran's destabilising policies in the region.

The two, who met in Washington on Saturday, reviewed the strategic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the US and ways to strengthen them, the Saudi Press Agency reported yesterday.

Blinken reiterated the US commitment to strengthen Saudi Arabia's defenses, efforts to counter Iranian threats, and the importance of maintaining strong international support for Ukraine. They also discussed managing pressures in global energy markets stemming from Russia's invasion.

Prince Khalid welcomed US affirmation of the Kingdom's support in developing its military capabilities and meeting its defense needs.

The Saudi deputy defense minister also met US Special Envoy for Yemen Timothy Lenderking and discussed the latest developments in Yemen.

"I affirmed to him the Saudi-led coalition's backing of the Yemeni Presidential Leadership Council and its supporting entities, and our aspirations for reaching a comprehensive political resolution to the crisis that will lead Yemen into peace and prosperity," Prince Khalid said in a tweet.



Saudi men near a US Army defence system on display at World Defense Show in Riyadh in March. (Image used for illustrative purposes only)

They discussed the latest developments in Yemen and expressed strong support for the UN-negotiated truce, with Prince Khalid reaffirming Riyadh's aspirations for the Yemenis "to reach a comprehensive

political solution that would move Yemen to peace and development."

On Thursday, the new US military commander in the Middle East said that Iran remains the most destabilising force in the

region, calling for coordinated efforts to confront the threats by Iran.

General Erik Kurilla of CENTCOM said that Iran's uranium enrichment, ballistic missile development, and regional

proxies, particularly the Houthis in Yemen, had repeatedly been central to his conversations with America's strategic partners during his recent tour of Egypt, the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Moving forward

Draft work plan discussed at TRA Open Forum

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Bahrain (TRA) yesterday held an Open Forum at its headquarters in the Seef District, which provided stakeholders with a platform to share their thoughts on the TRA's 2022-2023 draft work plan.

The draft work plan was published on 24 April, and it includes the TRA's work streams with the intention of achieving objectives based on four key themes.

Specifically, the TRA aims to meet the government policy outlined in the Fifth National Telecom Plan, to ensure network security and resilience, to provide a reliable broadband service for all, and to ensure



Mr Marnick speaks at the Open Forum

consumer empowerment and protection.

Among those attending were representatives of the telecom-

munications industry, from the Ministry of Transportation and

Telecommunications, as well as consumer advocacy organisations.

Speaking on the occasion, Philip Marnick, General Director of the Telecommunications Authority, commented on the event, saying, "We were pleased so many attended our first TRA Open Forum."

"It enabled stakeholders, especially consumers, an opportunity to share their ideas and help shape our work. At the end of the day, the work we do here is for the people of Bahrain, so talking to one another helps us serve our community better."

Mr Marnick added that "We expect to hold more Open Forums on future draft publications, so that we can remain in touch and engage with all our stakeholders".

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

9815874

ACTIVE CASES

17

DEATHS

1482

DISCHARGED

575470

NEW CASES

574

CRITICAL

4

220 fils (includes VAT)



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