



HM King and President Aoun set for key talks today

Lebanese leader arrives to bolster Bahrain-Lebanon bilateral relations

Pressing regional and international developments part of discussions

TDT | Manama

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun is set to meet His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa today to discuss pressing regional and international developments. President Aoun arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday on an official visit aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

HM the King is scheduled to meet him today at Al Qudaiya Palace, where an official recep-



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun is warmly welcomed by HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa and senior Bahrain officials. The ceremony will be held in the Lebanese leader's honour.

Mutual concern

The high-level talks are expected to focus on strengthening political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two countries, as well as exchanging views on matters of mutual concern across the Middle East and beyond.

Upon his arrival, President Aoun was warmly received by His Highness Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal



Bahrain and Lebanon flags line the national road, symbolising strong and brotherly bilateral relations

Representative of His Majesty the King; His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al Mannai, Governor of Muharraq Governorate; and H.E. Mirna Khawly, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Lebanon to Bahrain.

Brotherly ties

Expressing his appreciation for the invitation extended by HM King Hamad, President Aoun described the visit as a testament to the longstanding

and brotherly ties between Lebanon and Bahrain.

He emphasised the importance of this opportunity to deepen collaboration in key sectors including economy, investment, and tourism, particularly at a time when the region faces evolving challenges requiring unified and strategic responses.

"The visit reflects our mutual desire to expand strategic partnerships that serve the interests of both nations," President Aoun stated. "Lebanon deeply values Bahrain's support at various international and regional platforms, and its continued efforts in promoting peace, stability, and development across the Arab world."

President Aoun noted that his meetings with His Majesty and senior Bahraini officials would help lay the groundwork for enhanced cooperation and shared prosperity, while reaffirming Lebanon's commitment to Arab solidarity.

Kingdom condoles with Bangladesh over plane crash

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed the Kingdom of Bahrain's sympathy and solidarity with Bangladesh following the crash of a Bangladesh Air Force plane on a school and university campus in the capital, Dhaka, which resulted in the death and injury of a number of people, including children.

The Ministry expressed the Kingdom's utmost condolences and sympathy to the government and people of Bangladesh, and to the families and relatives of the victims, extending its wishes for a speedy recovery for all the injured.

Russia downplays expectations for new Ukraine talks

AFP | Moscow

Moscow yesterday once again downplayed expectations for a third round of peace talks with Ukraine and did not confirm the date for a meeting in Istanbul set for today by Ukraine.

That came after the Kremlin on Monday said that the two sides were far apart in their visions on how to end the war.

Inclusive Education Drive

School upgrades include ACs, buses, and cleaning staff boost

Bahrain's new initiative adds 23 dedicated classrooms for students with autism and intellectual disabilities, marking the largest single-year inclusion effort in its public school history.

Autism support expanded

Transport lines increased

Hygiene staff doubled

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

Public schools across Bahrain will witness the country's largest ever expansion in inclusive education this September, with new infrastructure, dedicated classrooms for students with disabilities, and sweeping upgrades in school services, the Minister of Education confirmed yesterday.

His Excellency Dr Mohamed bin Mubarak Juma said the 2025-2026 academic year will be "qualitatively different" due

to major reforms targeting students with autism, intellectual disabilities, and other special needs. The initiative, backed by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, aims to improve support services across all government schools.

As part of this reform, 23 fully equipped and furnished classrooms dedicated to students with autism and intellectual disabilities will be opened. This marks the biggest such expansion in Bahrain's education history.

"These new classrooms come in addition to the existing ones and reflect our growing commitment to inclusive learning," Dr Juma said.

He added that comprehensive educational plans are being developed to better support students with special needs, underlining the ministry's par-



H.E. Dr Mohamed bin Mubarak Juma

allel focus on inclusive and high-quality education delivery.

The ministry has also finalised plans to increase the number of school buses for students with special needs, with each bus fully equipped to meet safety and accessibility standards.

Transport lines are also being expanded for the general

student population, including new routes serving recently developed urban areas. These changes will raise the number of students benefiting from government transport services to more than 50,000 across the Kingdom.

To improve school environments, nearly 6,000 new

air-conditioning units are being installed in public schools. This adds to the 5,000 units already fitted last year. Special teams have been assigned to inspect and ensure the efficient operation of cooling systems before the new term begins.

Another major upgrade involves increasing the number of cleaning staff in every public school. From the upcoming year, each school will have four to nine cleaners, up from just two to four in previous years. This change is expected to significantly improve hygiene standards and the overall school environment.

Dr Juma praised the ministry's internal teams for accelerating preparations ahead of the new academic year. He said ongoing maintenance and preventive checks are under way at all government schools, with further details on the school year's launch expected soon.