



Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday received Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bahrain, Dr Abdullah bin Abdul-Malik Al Shaikh, in the presence of Defence Minister General Abdullah Al Nuaimi, and Chief-of-Chief General Diyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi. The BDF Commander-in-Chief praised the constantly developing firm brotherly relations between the two countries nurtured by their wise leaderships in the various fields.

BACA president congratulated

Manama

Shura Council Chairman, Ali Saleh Al Saleh, has congratulated the President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, on being awarded the Arab Heritage Personality of 2019 during the opening of the first Arab Tourism and Heritage Forum, organised by the Arab Centre for Tourism Media, on the sidelines of the Salalah Tourism Festival in Oman.

In his cable, the Shura Council chairman said that the honouring is in recognition of Shaikha Mai's efforts to strengthen the inter-relationship between the culture and tourism sectors, establish a cultural infrastructure, protect and highlight human heritage for the sake of sustainable devel-



Shaikha Mai

opment, which, he said, has contributed to enhancing Bahrain's cultural role at the international level.

He also praised Shaikha Mai's clear contributions to reviving many heritage sites in Bahrain and inscribing them on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Mr Al Saleh expressed pride in BACA President's achievement, highlighting her efforts to devise and implement plans to preserve the Kingdom's national heritage, keenness to activate cultural exchange and dialogue among civilisations, as well as effective participation in international conferences and gatherings.

He wished Shaikha Mai further success in serving the nation, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Bahrain backs Britain

Kingdom expresses solidarity with the UK against Iranian stances

Manama

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, yesterday received a phone call from the UK Minister of State for the Middle East at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Dr Andrew Murrison.

The minister expressed his sincere congratulations to Dr Murrison, on his appointment as Minister of State for the Middle East at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, wishing him every success in carrying out his duties.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs noted the distinguished and

proceeding path of the close historic friendly relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Kingdom, in addition to its diversity that includes all aspects of political, economic, security and other areas.

"The strong relations underline the depth of bilateral co-op-

eration and promote the common interests of the two friendly countries and peoples, affirming the keenness of the Kingdom to continue consultations and joint co-ordination on various regional and international issues."

Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa reiterated Bahrain's condemnation of Iran's detention of a UK tanker in the Strait of Hormuz, stressing Bahrain's strong solidarity with the United Kingdom against those who threaten its security, and strong rejection of Iran's repeated practices that threaten the safety of maritime navigation and undermine international peace and security.

Dr Andrew Murrison expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and his pride in the friendly relations between the Kingdom of Bah-



We strongly reject Iran's repeated practices that threaten the safety of maritime navigation.

SHAIKH KHALID

rain and the United Kingdom and the progress it is witnessing at various levels, wishing the Kingdom of Bahrain continued advancement and prosperity.

In a related development, Saudi Arabia said that Iran's inter-

ception of commercial vessels, including its seizure of a British tanker, in Gulf waters was a violation of international law and urged the global community to deter such actions.

"Any disruption of the freedom of international maritime traffic is considered a violation of international law and the international community must do what is necessary to reject it and deter it," the Saudi cabinet said in a statement carried on state media.

Iran said on Friday it had seized Britain's Stena Impero tanker, which had been heading to a port in Saudi Arabia and suddenly changed course after passing through the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

Britain described the seizure as an act of "state piracy" and called for a European-led naval mission to ensure safe shipping through the world's most important oil artery.

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Iran seized Britain's Stena Impero tanker on Friday.

OIC Chief condemns Mogadishu bombing

Jeddah

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned roundly the car bomb terrorist attack on July 22, near a checkpoint in Somalia capital Mogadishu, on the road lead-

ing to Mogadishu international airport.

A number of innocent people were killed and several injured.

Secretary-General Dr Yousef Al Othaimen extended his deepest condolences to the bereaved families of the vic-

tims and to the government and people of Somalia, and his wishes for prompt recovery to the wounded.

The OIC, he reaffirmed, is unwavering in its support to the Somali government against all forms of terrorism.

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