

Interior Minister Receives Harvard Graduate



Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received Shaikh Ali bin Abdullah Al Khalifa and his son Major Mohammed bin Ali, who completed a fellowship programme in International Relations at Harvard University in the United States.

The minister praised continued efforts to support education and training programmes for ministry personnel, enhancing professional capabilities in security fields.

He congratulated Major Mohammed on his academic achievement and wished him further success in his career.

Bahrain, US Discuss Strategic Partnership



The Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee held talks with US Ambassador to Bahrain Stephanie Hallett on strengthening bilateral relations.

Committee Chairman Dr Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi highlighted the historic ties between Bahrain and the United States, stressing the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation to support regional and international security.

The ambassador reaffirmed Washington's commitment to further developing the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Bahrain Condemns Houthi Attack on Saudi Vessel

Kingdom calls for stronger international action to protect maritime security

TDI | Manama

Bahrain strongly condemned a terrorist attack carried out by the Iran-backed Houthi militia targeting a Saudi-owned vessel in the Red Sea, describing it as a serious violation of international law and a threat to global maritime security.

The attack caused a fire on the vessel's bow, but no casualties were reported. Bahrain said the incident represents a breach of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and poses a danger to maritime navigation, international trade routes, and global energy sup-



plies.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Bahrain's full solidarity with Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed its support for all legitimate measures taken by the Kingdom to protect its sovereignty, security, and national interests.

The ministry also urged the in-



ternational community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to take greater responsibility in preventing further attacks and ensuring accountability for those behind them.

Bahrain stressed the need for firm and deterrent measures to safeguard freedom of navigation in key waterways, including the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Strait of Hormuz.

GCC, Jordan Unite Against Iranian Attacks

Seven nations reaffirm right to self-defence, condemn strikes on civilian infrastructure

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reaffirmed their unified position in condemning "Iranian aggression" and attacks carried out by Iran and its proxies against their territories.

In a joint statement, the seven countries said their position is based on previous resolutions adopted by the GCC Ministerial Council, the Council of Arab League Foreign Ministers, international law, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2817 (2026).

The countries stated that Iranian attacks targeting their territories, citizens, and civilian infrastructure have continued since February 28, 2026, despite the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the United States and Iran on June 17, 2026.

They said the attacks have intensified, particularly against Bahrain, Kuwait, and Jordan,



targeting vital civilian facilities including energy installations, desalination plants, ports, airports, and other infrastructure.

"serious threat" to regional security

The statement described the ongoing attacks as "clear acts of aggression" that violate the UN Charter, international law, international humanitarian law, Security Council Resolution

2817 (2026), and commitments made by Iran under the memorandum of understanding.

The seven countries warned that such actions represent a serious threat to international peace and security.

They also reaffirmed their "inherent right to self-defence," individually or collectively, under Article 51 of the UN Charter, and stressed their right to take all necessary legal measures to protect their sovereignty, terri-

ories, citizens, commercial vessels, and critical infrastructure.

The GCC states and Jordan also welcomed the decision by the Prime Minister of Iraq to place all weapons under state control by September 30, 2026.

They expressed support for measures taken by the Iraqi government to prevent Iran-aligned factions, militias, and armed groups from continuing hostile operations against countries in the region.

Oil soars above \$100 as Middle East fears grow

Oil prices surged past \$100 a barrel on Thursday as Iran-backed Houthi rebels targeted Red Sea shipping and threats by US President Donald Trump to strike them in return sent equity markets slumping.

The international benchmark Brent North Sea oil contract soared more than six percent over the symbolic \$100 level, as the attacks potentially opened a new front in the Middle East war and Trump threatened the Houthis with "major military punish-

ment".

Iran, meanwhile, vowed to continue striking the Gulf region so long as it remains under attack from US strikes.

Saudi Arabia had been using the Red Sea to export millions of barrels of oil that normally flowed through the Strait of Hormuz, so closing that shipping channel would remove more oil from the market.

"Investors are in a wary mood... as fresh jitters about the ongoing energy crunch hit sentiment," said



Susannah Streeter, chief investment strategist at Wealth Club.

"With both the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea now under increasing pressure, markets are bracing for the possibility that the conflict could disrupt key energy

routes (and) keep oil prices elevated," she added.

The prospect of higher oil prices also raises the prospect of higher inflation and interest-rate hikes, adding to weak sentiment, analysts said.

HM King Appoints Endowments Directors



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Decree (39) of 2026 appointing new directors general at the Council of Islamic Endowments Affairs.

Ahmed Khalil Ebrahim Khairi has been appointed Director General of the General Directorate of Sunni Affairs, while Abduljaleel Ali Ahmed Al Hayki has been appointed Director General of the General Directorate of Jaafari Affairs.

The decree was issued following a proposal by the Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf and Cabinet approval.

'Khaleeji First' Campaign Launched



The Khalifa bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Foundation, in cooperation with MKF Connect, has launched the "Khaleeji First" campaign as part of Youth City 2030 programmes.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about supporting Gulf products and services and highlight the consumer's role in strengthening GCC economies.

The campaign will empower youth to develop creative initiatives, events and media content promoting Gulf-made products and encouraging economic integration across the region.

Road Closure on Shaikh Isa bin Salman Bridge



The Ministry of Works announced the closure of the left and middle lanes on Shaikh Isa bin Salman Bridge towards Muharraq for maintenance works.

The closure will begin at midnight on Friday, July 24, and continue until 5am on Sunday, July 26. Motorists have been urged to follow traffic instructions and use caution while travelling through the area.