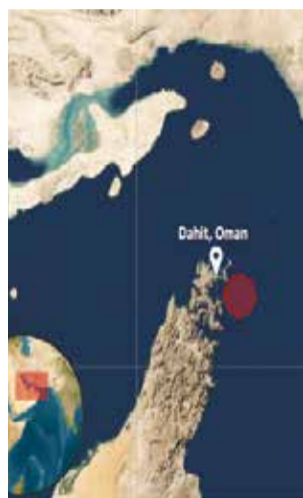


Strait of Hormuz traffic has surged in recent days but remains around half its pre-war levels as shipping gradually resumes following disruptions from the conflict. | P6-7

Ship Hit in Hormuz



A cargo ship was damaged after an unknown projectile hit it off the Omani coast in the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday, a British maritime agency said, reporting no casualties. "A cargo vessel was hit on the starboard side by an unknown projectile, causing damage to the bridge. The master reported no casualties and no environmental impact," said the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UK-MTO), adding that the incident occurred 7.5 nautical miles (14 kilometres) southeast of Dahit in Oman.

Extends Condolences to Venezuela



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain expressed the country's solidarity and sympathy with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela following the devastating double earthquake that struck the capital, Caracas, and its surrounding areas. The earthquakes resulted in dozens of deaths, injuries, and disappearances. Bahrain conveyed its sincere condolences to the government and people of Venezuela, as well as to the families of the victims affected by the tragic disaster.

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Diplomacy Over Tensions

HM King receives US Secretary of State

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received US Secretary of State Marco Rubio during his visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation between the two countries.

His Majesty welcomed Secretary Rubio and his accompanying delegation, while the US official expressed pleasure at visiting Bahrain and meeting with the King.

The meeting reviewed the longstanding Bahrain-US partnership and explored ways to further develop cooperation across



various fields, particularly in the economic and defence sectors.

Both sides emphasised the importance of continued coordination and joint efforts to enhance strategic ties and support mutual interests.

The discussions also covered regional and international developments, including an exchange of views on efforts aimed at promoting security and stability.

His Majesty and Secretary Rubio also stressed the importance

of upholding the memorandum of understanding, describing dialogue and diplomacy as essential approaches to addressing regional challenges and supporting international peace and security.

Gulf and U.S. Draw a New Red Line



Attendees of the joint ministerial meeting

In a defining moment for Gulf-American diplomacy, foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council convened with United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a high-level joint ministerial meeting, co-chaired by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani on behalf of the GCC in Manama.

Proven Resilient

Opening the meeting, Dr. Al Zayani conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa before addressing the turbulence that has gripped the region.

"Recent attacks on GCC states tested and revealed the true strength and resilience of our societies, institutions, and defense capabilities," Dr. Al Zayani said, noting that while physical damage can be repaired, the attacks had also disrupted the long-held sense of security enjoyed by the region's people.

Far from weakening resolve, however, he said the events had only deepened the GCC's determination to work with international partners to prevent similar incidents and build lasting



"The US will only support an agreement that is credible, verifiable, and enduring."

MARCO RUBIO

peace for future generations.

Road Ahead

Dr. Al Zayani welcomed the US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding that brought a cessation of hostilities, supported by mediation from Pakistan and Qatar, as well as the restoration of safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. He praised Oman's announcement of a temporary maritime corridor as an encouraging step.

Yet he was clear that words alone are insufficient. Sustainable regional security, he stressed, requires Iran to fully honor all commitments — including ending missile and



"The security of GCC member states is indivisible — a threat to one is a threat to all."

DR. ABDULLATIF BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI

drone attacks, halting support for armed militias, respecting the sovereignty of neighboring states, and ensuring it never acquires nuclear weapons.

Secretary Rubio echoed that position firmly. "The US will only support an agreement that is credible, verifiable, and enduring," he said, adding that international waterways must remain open and cannot be controlled or subject to fees by any single nation.

Partnership

Rubio described recent events as a significant test of the Gulf-American alliance — one the partnership passed. "The



GCC Secretary General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi attended the landmark session.

close coordination demonstrated throughout the crisis underscored the strength of this partnership," he said, expressing hope the region is entering a new phase oriented toward peace.

Dr. Al Zayani reaffirmed Bahrain's strategic partnership with the US, anchored by the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA), and called for expanded cooperation across security, economic development, and technology.

Both sides concluded by reaffirming the indivisibility of GCC security, welcoming the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, and stressing that free and unconditional freedom of navigation remains essential to regional and international security. Developments in Syria, Lebanon, and Gaza were also addressed.

Football talent committee formed



The President of the Bahrain Football Association Board of Directors, Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, has issued a decision to form a "Talent Committee" chaired by the Vice President of the association, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The committee includes several members of the federation's board and representatives from partner organisations. Members are Shaikh Ahmed bin Isa Al Khalifa, board member and national team supervisor; Shaikh Salman bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, board member and head of the youth national teams committee; Abdullah Al Buainain and Ali Maayouf representing Tamoh; and Nasser Al Arabi, Chairman of the Players' Status and Transfers Committee, who will serve as rapporteur.

The initiative aims to benefit from the expertise of leading coaches and technical specialists, strengthening the work of the Talent Committee and supporting its objectives in developing football talent in the Kingdom.

Geneva Nuclear Talks



Bahrain's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Abdullah Abdul Latif Abdullah, participated in a high-level meeting hosted by Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, with accredited member state representatives in Geneva.

The meeting provided a platform for discussions on key agenda items, including nuclear safeguards, safety and security, nuclear energy, and nuclear science and applications, as well as ways to enhance cooperation between the IAEA and its member states.

Participants also engaged in an interactive exchange with the Director General regarding recent developments and challenges facing the agency.