

Mercedes teen ace Antonelli wants more of the same after maiden win

Antonelli's China triumph boosts belief as Mercedes duo chase first Suzuka win since 2019 | P12

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Bahrain boosts ties, discusses regional issues with UK, Russia



H.E. Dr. Al Zayani
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Bahrain reviewed the latest regional developments with the United Kingdom and Russia while reinforcing bilateral relations and cooperation.

This followed meetings where His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, received H.E. Alastair Long, Ambassador of the UK to Bahrain, and H.E. Dr. Alexey Skosyrev, Ambassador of Russia to the Kingdom.

During the meetings, H.E. Dr. Al Zayani and H.E. Ambassador Long discussed the longstanding relations and strategic partnership between Bahrain and the UK, and explored avenues for further development across multiple sectors.

H.E. Dr. Al Zayani and H.E. Ambassador Dr. Skosyrev focused on disruptions to international navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and exchanged views on broader international issues.

154 missiles, 350 drones destroyed

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The General Command of the Bahrain Defence Force announced that through the unwavering vigilance of its personnel, the BDF's air defence systems continue to successfully counter successive waves of the hostile terrorist Iranian aggression.

Since the onset of hostilities, air defences have intercepted and destroyed 154 ballistic missiles and 350 drones targeting the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The General Command hailed the combat readiness and vigilance of BDF personnel, and their sustained operational effectiveness in defending the Kingdom.

'G7 nations should back reopening of Hormuz'

AFP | Joint Base Andrews, US

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday that it was in the "interest" of all G7 nations to push for the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz currently blocked by Iran.

"It's in their interest to help," Rubio said shortly before heading to France where he will attend a meeting of G7 foreign ministers outside Paris today.

It is Rubio's first trip abroad since the US and Israel launched airstrikes on Iran on February 28.

Rubio, who skipped the first day of G7 talks yesterday, said there was "progress" in talks with Iran, but refused to speculate on when or how they might end.

"There are intermediary

countries that are passing messages, and progress has been made," Rubio said, calling it an "ongoing process."

Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan - the other G7 members - yesterday signaled their hope for a diplomatic solution to the situation in Iran, which has rippled through the global economy due to the virtual closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Around a fifth of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas passes through the waterway in peacetime.

US President Donald Trump said earlier yesterday at a cabinet meeting that Tehran was more keen to make a deal than he was, noting that the military operation was ahead of schedule and reiterating his criticism of NATO.

Focus on security plans and labour reforms



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, remotely chaired the 524th Government Executive Committee meeting. The Committee reviewed plans implemented to address the impact of the hostile Iranian aggression against the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as initiatives aimed at developing labour market procedures.

Supply security

Bahrain calls for stronger GCC integration to ensure uninterrupted movement of goods

H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed: Transport, logistics key to regional stability, growth

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His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, emphasised the critical need to consolidate Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) integration across vital sectors, particularly transport and logistics.

He said that this coordination is essential to ensure the continuity of supply chains and the smooth movement of shipments, especially strategic goods.

"The security and prosperity of GCC countries are indivisible, and their destinies are shared," H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed said during the extraordinary GCC Ministers of Transport and Communications meeting held via videoconference. "Strengthening coordination in transport and logistics is essential to maintain uninterrupted flow of essential goods across our states."

Emergency

He also stressed the importance of preparedness for emergency conditions, noting: "We must enhance readiness to safeguard the stability of our countries, protect the interests



H.E. Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa chairs the extraordinary GCC meeting



"We must enhance readiness to safeguard the stability of our countries, protect the interests of our peoples, and support the progress of joint GCC action."

- H.E. DR. SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

of our peoples, and support the progress of joint GCC action."

The meeting, convened under Bahrain's presidency of the 46th session of the GCC, brought together ministers and officials responsible for transport, ports,

and logistics sectors across member states.

Discussions focused on the current operational conditions in land and maritime transport, the movement of freight and strategic goods, and the status

of border crossings to ensure uninterrupted transit.

Measures

Participants reviewed measures to activate joint mechanisms, including simplifying procedures at ports and border points, utilising alternative transport routes, and strengthening logistical connectivity between ports and land crossings.

The use of modern technologies to expedite clearance and inspection procedures was also highlighted as a priority to ensure high levels of responsiveness to regional developments.

Jasem Mohamed Albudaiwi, Secretary General of the GCC,

praised Bahrain's convening of the meeting at this critical time.

Projects

He underscored the importance of accelerating joint projects, exchanging expertise, and coordinating policies to enhance infrastructure, logistics services, and economic development across member states.

The ministers reaffirmed the need for continued consultation and cooperation to ensure the sustainability and efficiency of transport and logistics systems, reinforcing GCC integration and maintaining the smooth flow of trade and supply chains amid ongoing regional challenges.



Participants in the online forum discussed the current operational conditions in land and maritime transport, the movement of freight and strategic goods, and the status of border crossings to ensure uninterrupted transit.

