

Bahrain defeat Uganda in friendly

Mahdi Abduljabbar, Ebrahim Al Khattal and Abdulla Duij all on target for nationals, who battle back from a goal down to claim well-deserved win | P12

FRIDAY
 JANUARY, 2022
 220 FILS
 ISSUE NO.9095

THE DAILY **tribune**



Rupert Grint wants to be like the Gallagher brothers 10 CELEBRITY

BUSINESS 5 Al Salam Bank, Ithmaar Holding agree Financial Assets acquisition transaction

Pope Francis writes to HM King Hamad on boosting ties

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received yesterday a handwritten message from His Holiness Pope Francis II of the Vatican on the close bilateral ties between Bahrain and the Vatican.

The message was handed over to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullah bin Rashid Al-Zayani, by Ambassador-designate of the Vatican to Bahrain, Archbishop Eugene Martin Nugent, residing in Kuwait.

They exchanged cordial talks and discussed ways to enhance cooperation, especially in spreading the values of love and peace in the world and promoting the principles of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and freedom of religions and beliefs. Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Qurainis, the Head of the European Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was present.



Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Qurainis, the Head of the European Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was present.

Government Executive Committee



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Deputy King, yesterday chaired the 413th Government Executive Committee meeting held remotely. The meeting reviewed the 2022-2026 National Human Rights Plan, the establishment of the Bahrain Council for Health Studies and Specialities, and COVID-19 measures.

Bahrain condemns attack in Yemen

TDT | Manama

Bahrain condemned missile strikes launched by Houthi militia on a residential neighbourhood in Marib of Yemen, killing and injuring several people, including women and children.

The Foreign Ministry said the attack represents a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, moral values and principles.

Bahrain affirmed solidarity with Yemen, backing all measures against the 'heinous' attacks.

The ministry further called on the international community to take a firm stance towards the recurrent Houthi attacks.

Expect trade deal with UK this year: Al Zayani

TDT | Manama

It talks progress as expected, the UK and GCC nations will sign a trade deal before the end of this year.

Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, confirmed this during an interview with Bloomberg TV yesterday.

"We're hopeful we could get something done by the end of this year or the middle of next year," the minister said.

If the deal materialises, it could hugely benefit both sides as the UK looks to flex its muscles following Brexit.

Bahrain, Al Zayani said, is also aiming to boost the contribution of tourism to 11.4% of economic output by 2026, up from about 7%, while boosting visitor numbers to 14.1 million a year.

Al Zayani said the block, which includes Bahrain, Saudi, UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar,



"We're hopeful we could get something done by the end of this year or the middle of next year"

ZAYED BIN RASHID AL ZAYANI, THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND TOURISM



The United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement entered into force on January 11, 2006. The central oversight body for the Agreement is the United States-Bahrain Joint Committee, chaired jointly by the Office of the US Trade Representative and Bahrain's Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Bilateral Investment Treaty

The United States-Bahrain Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which took effect in May 2001, covers investment issues between the two countries.

is eyeing a comprehensive deal that could help boost trade with the United Kingdom.

The UK kicked off the process in October, with the Gulf becoming its latest post-Brexit

trade target as it seeks to deepen economic ties beyond the European Union.

British trade with the GCC was worth about 45 billion pounds (\$61 billion) in 2019,

7% of Britain's commerce with the EU in the same year.

The EU and the GCC do not have a free trade agreement in place, despite talking for over 15 years.

UAE to lift entry, transit ban on passengers from 12 African countries



General view of a Dubai duty free closed shop at Dubai International Airport Reuters | Dubai

The United Arab Emirates will lift an entry and transit ban tomorrow on travellers who had recently visited South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia and eight other African countries.

The National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Emergency Management Authority (NCEMA) said late on Wednesday it was lifting the ban on those who had visited certain African countries in the previous 14 days, imposed due to the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

The other countries are Tanzania, Republic of Congo, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Snowy treat

Jerusalem's holy sites and West Bank carpeted in rare snow

Reuters | Jerusalem

A rare heavy snowfall covered Jerusalem, some of northern Israel and hilly areas in the occupied West Bank overnight into Thursday, shutting down roads and schools.

Worshippers had to trudge through inches of snow to reach



the holy sites in Jerusalem's walled Old City, including the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall. Heavy snow is rare in the city, so children went out into the streets to watch the flakes falling and hurl snowballs at each other.

Abed Shabany, 39, took his two sons to play on a hill overlooking

Jerusalem. As he reversed his Jeep through inches of slush, other parents kept themselves warm brewing coffee on gas canisters in their boots.

"I haven't seen anything like this for years," he said. "There's no school today so I'm just going around with the kids making snowmen and snowballs. I think

it's a good sign. It will be a good year, I hope." Police closed off several main highways leading to Jerusalem, and bus services inside the city were suspended.

Before arriving in Jerusalem, the winter storm swept through the Mediterranean region, from Greece across Turkey and into Syria.

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL TESTED

8666060

ACTIVE CASES

32805

DEATHS

1402

DISCHARGED

314448

NEW CASES

5255

CRITICAL

12

220 fils (includes VAT)



6 084010 110021 >