

**Cambodia ties**

Foreign Minister Al Zayani meets Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn on the sidelines of the UN Security Council, New York

**Regional security**

Dr. Al Zayani and Czech Deputy PM Jan Lipavský discussed Iran's Hormuz closure and its global economic impact

**Bilateral bonds**

Bahrain and Argentina's Foreign Minister Pablo Queirno explore new avenues of cooperation at the UN

While the world watches, Bahrain acts

Iran's aggression and Hormuz closure top the regional agenda at UN

Ashen Tharaka
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The Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani took centre stage at the United Nations in New York, representing the Kingdom at a high-level Security Council debate on upholding the founding purposes and principles of the UN Charter. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi chaired the session, as his country holds the Council's rotating presidency this month.

Speaking before UN Secretary-General António Guterres and a gathering of world leaders and foreign ministers, Dr. Al Zayani reaffirmed Bahrain's unwavering commitment to the pillars on which the United Nations was built 80 years ago — state sovereignty, non-interference, the rejection of force, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. He called on the Security Council to live up to its Charter obligations in ways that rebuild global confidence in multilateralism at a time when that system faces its sharpest test in decades.

The minister painted a stark



Foreign Minister Al Zayani addresses Security Council debate in New York

picture of today's world: humanitarian crises and armed conflicts colliding with terrorism, extremism, climate threats, health emergencies, and cyber risks — all demanding collective responsibility, not unilateral action.

On the sidelines, Dr. Al Zayani held a bilateral meeting with Secretary-General Guterres, where the two discussed mounting regional tensions, includ-

ing Iranian aggression against Bahrain and Gulf Cooperation Council states, and Iran's continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz — a move with grave consequences for global energy security, trade, and the world economy. Both sides backed Pakistani-mediated peace efforts between Washington and Tehran as a path toward restoring regional stability and reopening the vital waterway.

The Foreign Minister also met separately with Wang Yi, reaffirming the deep historic ties between Bahrain and China and aligning on key regional and international issues before the Security Council, under the guidance of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and President Xi Jinping.

Other meetings

On the sidelines of the UN Security Council meetings in New York, Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani held bilateral talks on May 27 with his counterparts from Cambodia, Czech Republic, Argentina, and Pakistan.

All meetings addressed the fallout from Iranian aggression against Bahrain and Gulf states, and Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz — threatening global energy supplies, trade, and food security. Discussions also covered Pakistani-mediated US-Iran peace negotiations and regional stability efforts.

With Pakistan, the two sides additionally affirmed their brotherly ties and coordination as fellow non-permanent Security Council members.



Dr. Al Zayani meets Pakistan's Deputy PM Ishaq Dar to back Pakistani-mediated US-Iran peace efforts



Bilateral meetings with the UN chief and China's Wang Yi on the sidelines



Fast-track residency services go digital

Mohammed Darwish
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Fast-track nationality, passport and residence services in Bahrain can now be accessed through online platforms and all service centres, under a new decision aimed at widening access to urgent government transactions.

The move was introduced under Decision No. 60 of 2026 issued by Interior Minister General Rashid bin Abdullah

Applicants can continue to obtain expedited services for a BD10 fee per transaction.

Al Khalifa, amending item 68 in the fees schedule attached to Decision No. 196 of 2014 governing services provided by the General Directorate of Nationality, Passports and Residence.

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BD10 fee per transaction.

Previously, under a 2022 amendment, the fast-track service was limited to the main headquarters service centre. The latest decision broadens access by extending the service to all centres as well as elec-

tronic channels, while retaining the same fee.

The decision followed a proposal submitted by the Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs and received Cabinet approval.

The Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs has been tasked with implementing the decision, which takes effect the day after publication in the Official Gazette.

FROM THE COURT

Five jailed in BD50,000 Tamkeen-SIO fraud case

Rehab Mohammad
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Five people have been convicted in a public funds embezzlement and electronic forgery case involving Bahrain's Labour Fund "Tamkeen" and the Social Insurance Organization (SIO).

The High Criminal Court heard that the group fraudulently obtained more than BD50,000 by manipulating official records and insurance data.

According to the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution, three defendants were sentenced to 10 years in prison, while the remaining two received jail terms of varying lengths. The court also imposed fines ranging from BD1,000 to BD20,000

and ordered the confiscation of seized items.

Investigations found that the defendants forged official electronic records and submitted false information through the electronic systems of Tamkeen and SIO to illegally secure funds.

Authorities said the group also tampered with insurance records by unlawfully adding and removing insured individuals and creating fictitious employment periods to obtain pensions, end-of-service benefits and other compensations.

The case came to light after Tamkeen and SIO submitted reports flagging suspected fraud, prompting an investigation by prosecutors. The suspects were later referred to trial, where the court found them guilty.

Driver jailed 7 years over fatal drunk-driving crash

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

A drunk driver who sped through a red light and caused a crash that killed one person and seriously injured another has been jailed for seven years by the High Criminal Court.

The court also ordered the deportation of the Asian defendant after he completes his prison sentence.

According to court documents, the accident happened around 2:25am while the defendant was driving his employer's pickup truck at more than 30 per cent above the speed limit and under the influence of alcohol.

Investigators said he ignored a red traffic signal be-

fore crashing into a vehicle carrying two victims. The force of the collision sent the vehicle into the central divider, a traffic signal pole and another stationary vehicle.

One victim died from severe skull injuries, while the other suffered multiple fractures and underwent surgery. The crash also caused heavy damage to vehicles and public property.

During the Public Prosecution investigation, the defendant admitted that speeding, reckless driving and alcohol consumption led to the fatal accident. In its ruling, the court said the offences were closely linked and warranted the maximum penalty under the law, with no grounds for leniency.

No walk-ins, only bookings as Eid rush hits Bahrain barbers



Mohammed Darwish
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Barbershops across Bahrain are witnessing a pre-Eid rush, with salons staying open into the early hours of the morning as men and boys scramble for last-minute haircuts and grooming sessions ahead of Eid Al Adha prayers.

The busiest period comes in the final two days before Eid, when barber chairs rarely stay empty and appointment lists fill up rapidly to manage the crowds.

Many salons have shifted to advance bookings to cope with soaring demand, with barbers describing the Eid season as one of the most hectic times of the year.

Pakistani barber Moeen Naseem said the rush usually

continues until the second day of Eid, although the biggest crowds arrive on Eid eve.

He said some salons need more than five barbers working simultaneously to keep up with requests for haircuts, beard trims, facials and skin-care treatments.

A complete grooming session generally costs between BD5 and BD7, he added.

Turkish barber Nadeem Osman said shops have not increased prices during Eid despite the heavy rush.

Instead, most salons are relying on timed appointments to reduce waiting periods and maintain a steady flow of customers. He added that many barbershops are operating far beyond normal closing hours, with some remaining open until dawn on Eid morning.