



Bahrain promotes gateway role at **Thailand trade expo**

Supply chains and food security in focus at THAIFEX talks



TDT | Manama

A Bahraini delegation took part in the opening of THAIFEX – ANUGA ASIA 2026, one of Asia's leading food and trade exhibitions, as both Bahrain and Thailand explored ways to deepen commercial ties and strengthen regional supply chains.

The delegation included H.E. Khalil Yacoub Al Khayat, Bahrain's Ambassador to Thailand, H.E. Sumate Chulajata, Thailand's Ambassador to Bahrain, businessman Khalid Ali Al Ameen, members of a Bahraini trade delegation and representatives of Gulf Air.

The visit formed part of Thailand's efforts to expand exports to Bahrain and the wider Gulf

Cooperation Council region. Discussions focused on improving logistics integration, warehouse standards and consolidated shipping models to enhance container efficiency and strengthen distribution networks across regional markets.

The Bahraini delegation also held talks with Thailand's Food Industry and Future Food Committee under the Thai Chamber

of Commerce, where discussions centred on food innovation and evolving global consumer trends.

Meetings were also held with officials from Thailand's Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) to explore opportunities for closer cooperation at the policy level, particularly amid ongoing geopolitical developments affect-

ing regional trade and supply chains.

During the visit, the Bahraini delegation encouraged Thai food producers and business leaders to consider Bahrain as a strategic gateway to Gulf markets and a regional base for operations.

Thai representatives, in turn, reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening Thailand's role in

global food security, highlighting the country's position as a stable manufacturing hub and a reliable supplier of food and consumer goods.

Both sides stressed the importance of maintaining resilient supply chains and expressed a shared commitment to expanding sustainable economic cooperation and trade partnerships across the region.

Oil falls, stocks mixed on US-Iran truce prospects

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Stock markets were mixed while oil prices fell again yesterday on investor optimism that the United States and Iran would reach a deal to extend their ceasefire.

Oil markets have been up and down this week as investors assess the chances of a breakthrough between Washington and Tehran that could potentially resume shipping through the crucial Strait of Hormuz.

Those hopes had been briefly dashed by new US military strikes on Iran on Wednesday, countered by the Revolutionary Guard's targeting of an American airbase in the region.

Key figures at around 1440 GMT

Brent North Sea Crude:	▼ 2.3% at \$90.59 a barrel
West Texas Intermediate:	▼ 1.86% at \$87.25 a barrel
New York - DOW:	▲ 0.8% at 51,052.87 points
New York - S&P 500:	▲ 0.3% at 7,588.61
New York - Nasdaq:	▲ 0.3% at 26,998.10
London - FTSE 100:	▼ 0.1% at 10,416.07 (close)
Paris - CAC 40:	▼ 0.1% at 8,183.34 (close)
Frankfurt - DAX:	■ at 25,104.70 (close)
Hang Seng Index:	▲ 0.7% at 25,182.39 (close)
Tokyo - Nikkei 225:	▲ 2.5% at 66,329.50 (close)
Shanghai - Composite:	▼ 0.7% at 4,068.57 (close)
Euro/dollar:	▲ at \$1.1681 from \$1.1647 on Thursday
Pound/dollar:	▲ at \$1.3478 from \$1.3441
Dollar/yen:	▼ at 159.18 from 159.25 yen

By Thursday evening, negotiators had edged towards a deal to extend their fragile ceasefire for 60 days, pending approval from President Donald Trump, US sources told AFP.

The reports sent the S&P 500 index to another record high on Thursday, and Wall Street indices gained further on Friday in morning trading. Europe's main indices were flat ahead of the weekend. While details of the possible agreement are scarce, "oil traders are taking an optimistic view that the end could be in sight for disruption in the region", said Derren Nathan, head of equity research at Hargreaves Lansdown. However, "the mar-

ket's patience may be tested if a deal is not agreed by early June, and this could have big ramifications for the oil price and the global stock market rally," said Kathleen Brooks, research director at XTB.

Concerns are also growing that the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank may have to tighten interest rates after a run of gloomy indicators.

The Fed's preferred inflation gauge rose in April to its highest since 2023 and first-quarter US economic growth was revised lower.

European inflation

In Europe, French data

showed Friday that its economy contracted 0.1% in the first quarter, while inflation in May accelerated to 2.4%, above the ECB's target of 2%. Germany meanwhile saw inflation slow in May to 2.6%, though analysts still expect an interest rate hike for the eurozone, possibly at the next ECB meeting on June 11.

Global AI bullishness has driven a historic rally recently, this week pushing the market capitalisations of chipmakers Micron and SK hynix across the \$1 trillion threshold. Seoul's stock market led the charge in Asia on Friday, surging 3.6% while Tokyo's Nikkei closed at a record high.