

Bahrain Becomes DHL Hub

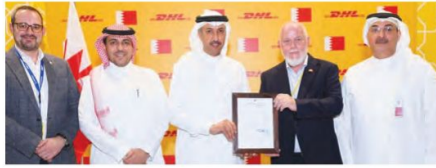
Deal reflects confidence in kingdom's investment climate

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All legal and regulatory procedures have been completed to register one of the world's largest companies in the air freight sector, namely "DHL Air Bahrain," to take the Kingdom of Bahrain as a centre and headquarters for its operational and commercial activities. This milestone marks a significant step in strengthening Bahrain's position as a regional and global hub for civil aviation and logistics.

Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, said the development reflects Bahrain's steady progress in line with the National Civil Aviation Strategy (2026-2027) and Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

The Minister noted that the decision highlights strong international confidence in Bahrain's



regulatory framework, investment environment, advanced infrastructure, and strategic location that connects key regional and global markets. He said it will enhance the Kingdom's air cargo capabilities and strengthen its role as a leading logistics hub.

The move also supports the broader civil aviation ecosystem, complementing national carriers such as Gulf Air and enhancing sector diversity and operational flexibility.

He further pointed out that DHL Air Bahrain operates a fleet of 12 cargo aircraft, conducts 266

"Bahrain's supportive business environment and strong infrastructure have been key enablers of our growth"

ABDULAZIZ ABDULLAH BUSBAIT, CEO OF DHL AIR BAHRAIN FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

weekly flights to 23 countries, and has handled over 70% of Bahrain's air cargo traffic in the past five years.



India-Bahrain Air Connectivity Strengthens

IndiGo and Air India Express Announce New Summer Schedules

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Pradeep Puravankara

Travel options between India and Bahrain have received a significant boost as major carriers IndiGo and Air India Express have announced a series of direct flights and reinstated routes starting this season. In a key development for the Indian expatriate community, Air India Express officially commenced its direct flight services from Kozhikode to Bahrain yesterday, April 30, 2026, marking a vital addition to the region's connectivity. From now on, Air India Express will operate four flights weekly from Kozhikode to Bahrain.

The move comes as a major relief for travelers, aligning with the upcoming summer vacation season when travel demand typically surges. Alongside the new Kozhikode service, Air India Express is also strengthening its footprint by reinstating direct flights between Kannur International Airport and Bahrain starting May 7, 2026. These Kannur flights will operate twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, departing Kannur at 20:35 and returning from Bah-



rain at 23:35.

This expansion is part of a broader regional strategy by Air India Express, which has officially reinstated its full operations across West Asia. As of today, the airline—a Tata enterprise—has restored connectivity to Qatar and Bahrain while enhancing flight frequencies to the UAE, Oman, and Saudi Arabia. The carrier now operates over 40 daily flights to the Gulf region from major Indian gateways including Delhi, Mumbai, Kochi, Kozhikode, and Bengaluru.

In Qatar, the airline has resumed vital links to Doha from Kochi and Kozhikode. Meanwhile, its Saudi Arabian network now covers Jeddah, Riyadh, and Dammam from var-

ious South Indian cities. The airline continues to maintain a robust presence in the UAE and Oman, operating a fleet of over 100 aircraft.

IndiGo is also set to play a major role in this expansion, resuming its daily direct service between Mumbai and Bahrain starting Saturday, May 2, 2026. According to the new schedule, the flight will depart Mumbai at 20:50 and arrive in Bahrain at 21:55. The return leg departs Bahrain at 22:55, reaching Mumbai at 05:10 the following morning. Beyond Mumbai, IndiGo has also opened bookings for connecting flights to various Indian cities and announced that direct services from Bahrain to Kochi and Hyderabad will commence on June 18.

Workers are backbone of Bahrain's economy



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Hasan Barakat

Workers across the Kingdom of Bahrain are recognised as a driving force behind the Kingdom's growth, as Parliament marked International Workers' Day with a message focused on jobs, rights and economic resilience.

The Council of Representatives praised the role of employees across all sectors, highlighting their contribution to productivity and national development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the continued support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister. Parliament stressed the impor-

ance of expanding quality job opportunities for young Bahrainis, while reinforcing the position of citizens as the first choice in employment and training.

It also pointed to the need for stronger legislative and regulatory frameworks to keep pace with labour market demands and economic changes.

The Council commended government programmes and cooperation with the private sector, particularly efforts aimed at supporting job seekers and addressing unemployment through targeted policies.

It underlined the importance of protecting workers' rights and recognising their contribution, describing the workforce as a cornerstone of Bahrain's economic strength.

NHRA reduces drug approval processing time

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Pharmaceutical companies in Bahrain will now face shorter waiting times to update registered medicines following a service upgrade aimed at speeding up approvals and improving efficiency.

The National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) enhanced its system for processing changes to registered medicines, reducing timelines and strengthening regulatory checks.

Under the new framework, major changes will be processed within 40 working days, down from 45, while minor changes can be approved within seven working days.

Applications can now be submitted electronically through the "Adwiyah" system, allowing companies

to upload documents, pay fees and receive approvals digitally.

The authority said the improvements also streamline procedures by reducing approval layers, standardising service information and increasing transparency.

"The upgrade strengthens medicine oversight and improves efficiency for companies."

Continued support for UN missions



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Top police official has reaffirmed support for United Nations missions in the kingdom during a meeting with senior UN security officials, the Interior Ministry said.

Police Chief Lt. Gen. Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan met UN Resident Coordinator Khalid M. Al-Moqed, George Alturas, Senior Security Adviser in the UN Department of Safety and Security, and Majed Mastoor, UN Security and Safety Director in Bahrain.

Police Chief stressed the Interior Ministry's commitment to providing full support to UN missions, stating that protecting international personnel and assisting their humanitarian work remains a security priority in line with international agreements and standards.

UN officials expressed appreciation for Bahrain's "leading role" in ensuring the safety and security of UN staff and operations, praising the level of coordination and professionalism that helps enable humanitarian and development programmes.

Security Cooperation



Bahrain Defence Force Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa received Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa in Manama, where they discussed cooperation and coordination between the two sides.