

Al Naseem project



His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, visited Diyar Al Muharraq to view the Al Naseem project on completion of villa construction. The visit was at the invitation of Abdulhakim Yaqoob Al Khayyat, Chairman of Diyar Al Muharraq Company. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah was accompanied by senior officials including H.E. Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, President of the Electricity and Water Authority; H.E. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture; H.E. Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works; H.E. Yasser bin Ibrahim Humaidan, Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs; H.E. Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning; and H.E. Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).

14,000th tree planted



In implementation of the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to expand afforestation across Bahrain's governorates as part of the National Afforestation Plan, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, planted the 14,000th tree, marking the completion of the afforestation works on Muharraq Ring Road. The planting ceremony was attended by ministers and senior officials. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah emphasised that the Kingdom's afforestation initiatives embody a comprehensive national vision that aims to enhance environmental security and achieve balance between economic development and the preservation of natural resources, in line with the Kingdom's commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2060.

Bahrain-Italy trade rises to \$791mln

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Trade between Bahrain and Italy reached \$791 million in 2024, up 20 per cent on 2020. More than 130 Italian firms now operate in the kingdom.

Racing Force anchors the industrial link. The Bell Racing Helmets plant in Sakhir opened in 2015 with \$13 million.

Output

In November 2024, it added 12,000 square metres, doubling output, and the group announced an OMP facility for racing safety gear.

About 70 per cent of Formula 1 drivers use helmets made in Bahrain.

Consumer brands have followed the money.

Nadh Holding brought La Romana Gelato, founded in Rimini in 1947, to Bahrain with up to \$5 million of investment and plans to expand into other Gulf markets from a Bahrain base.

Energy and technology ties run through partnerships.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Eni has worked with Bahrain on exploration, production and technical exchange. Firms active in metals and petrochemicals have added projects.

Technology and services companies have grown their footprint, helped by rules that allow 100 per cent foreign ownership of companies and real estate in most sectors.

Demands

Trade flows in 2024 show where demand sits.

Aluminium fluoride led imports from Italy at \$31 million despite a 30 per cent fall on the

year.

Leather handbags accounted for about 4 per cent of imports. Large-capacity passenger cars rose by 92 per cent compared with 2023.

On the export side, unwrought aluminium to Italy totalled \$145 million.

Exports

Aluminium alloys made up roughly 43 per cent of exports, and large-diameter non-alloy aluminium wire rose by 3,662 per cent.

Scope for further trade is mapped out by the International

Trade Centre with Export Bahrain.

Potential Bahraini exports to Italy include direct reduced iron, aluminium wire and agglomerated iron ores.

On the import side, openings include pharmaceuticals, cheese and gas-turbine spare parts.

Diplomatic ties

The commercial track sits on long-running diplomatic ties.

Relations began in 1973. The Italian embassy opened in Manama in 2002.

An agreement on investment protection followed in 2006, then an accord on equal treatment in port taxes and fees in 2009.

A Bahrain-Italy Joint Committee was set up in 2021, met first in Rome in 2023 and adopted a three-year plan for economic co-operation.

In January 2025, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visited Bahrain and signed digital and technology agreements, including Italian sovereignty over data stored in Bahraini data centres.

BCS inaugurates Sharodutsob 2025



Distinguished guests with Bengal Cultural Society officials and members

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Bengal Cultural Society (BCS), Bahrain, officially inaugurated its much-anticipated annual festival, Sharodutsob 2025, on Sunday at the Telegu Kala Samity Hall in Adliya.

The opening ceremony marked the beginning of a multi-day cultural celebration, bringing the spirit of Bengal to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The inaugural event was graced by the presence of several prominent figures, with Mr. Girish Pujari, Second Secretary to the Indian Embassy in Bahrain, serving as the esteemed Chief Guest.

He was joined by Ms. Meera Ravi, Chief Editor of Salaam Bahrain magazine, who also attended as a special guest.

The evening featured a formal inauguration ceremony and the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by addresses from the dignitaries.

The multi-day cultural celebration brings the spirit of Bengal to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Festival

Keynote speeches emphasizing cultural exchange, community bonding, and the significance of the festival were delivered by Mr. Pujari and Ms. Ravi, alongside Mr. Saikat Sarkar, President of the Bengal Cultural Society.

The speakers lauded the society's consistent effort to promote Indian cultural heritage within the Gulf region.

The Sharodutsob 2025 festival, which includes various cultural performances, art showcases, and community gatherings, is scheduled to run for several days and will conclude on October 2, 2025.

ICAI Bahrain Hosts Second Technical Session on “Tools of the Future”

● Focus on innovations

Pradeep Puravankara
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The Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) successfully hosted its 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed by its second technical session for the 2025-26 term, at The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain.

The event, which brought together members and industry leaders, marked the formal closure of the Chapter's 2024-25 committee term before transitioning into the new administrative year.



H.E. Indian Ambassador Vinod K. Jacob with ICAI Bahrain Chapter officials and members

trative year.

The subsequent technical session was organized under the theme “Tools of the Future,” focusing on the latest innovations and technologies transforming the professional landscape and

their essential implications for modern businesses.

Discussions

The session featured insightful discussions on innovation, technology adoption, and future-ready

practices, emphasizing the critical role of Chartered Accountants in adapting to these changes.

The proceedings were enriched by the participation of the event's sponsors, including Zigram, Tally, Neurasix,

and Aion IOS, who contributed to the dialogue on the impact of these new professional tools.

The ICAI Bahrain Chapter was honored by the gracious presence of His Excellency Vinod

K. Jacob, Ambassador of India to Bahrain, whose support and encouragement underscored the importance of the event to the Indian expatriate professional community.

Thanks

The Chapter extended its heartfelt thanks to all members and guests for their active participation and engagement.

Special acknowledgment was given to ZIGRAM, the Diamond Sponsor, for their continued and valuable support of the Chapter's activities.

The event concluded with the presentation of the newly formed Executive Committee for 2025-26.