

## Bahrain-Japan trade on right track, says envoy

● **Bahrain continues to be a strong trading partner for Japan with bilateral trade between the countries having been “stable” over many years, Japanese ambassador Hideki Ito told Tribune.**

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

The annual volume of trade between Bahrain and Japan is around \$1 billion, according to the Japanese Ambassador.

Bahrain continues to be a strong trading partner for Japan with bilateral trade between the countries having been “stable” over many years, Japanese ambas-

sador Hideki Ito told Tribune.

“From Bahrain we are importing mainly aluminium and oil products while Japan is exporting cars and machines. The overall trade between the two countries including import and export both ways.”

When asked if there has been any significant boost in trade volume in recent years, he said, “Not quite, it has been stable so far over the years. There have been fluctuations in certain years but overall it has been an average of around \$1 bn.”

However, he said he hopes that the trade volume could increase in coming years.

“In Bahrain, a lot of new projects are coming up in the field of water, electricity and oil and gas and many Japanese companies are interested in participating in these projects,” he said.

A Japanese training squadron that

”



**In Bahrain, a lot of new projects are coming up in the field of water, electricity and oil and gas and many Japanese companies are interested in participating in these projects.**

MR HIDEKI

recently arrived in Bahrain for joint exercises between the Japanese Training Squadron and their Bahraini counterparts left yesterday.

The Japanese Training squadron was composed of two vessels JS Kashima and JS Makinami, the squadron is on its way to visit eight ports in different countries having already visited four countries including Bahrain.

Rear Admiral Hiroyuki Izumi Commander of Japan Training Squadron said that the stay in Bahrain has been a fruitful one. He added that Japan remains committed to fighting piracy in the Middle East region.

Ambassador Ito said that he was pleased with the outcome of the visit. “The visit was a good chance for ships from the squadron and their counterparts in Bahrain to have goodwill training exercises. It was a good chance to

communicate with each other and share valuable knowledge.”

“This was the first visit for the training squadron to Bahrain in nine years. We have not decided when it will return. However, the Middle East area is an important area for Japan, so I do not think the next visit should wait a long time. Although, we do not have any immediate plans so it may take a few years before they return.”

Speaking about the Middle East region’s importance as a trading route for Japanese ships he said, “So many Japanese ships pass by this area, the number is huge, this makes this region an important trading route. We import a huge amount of oil from this region. We are also exporting a huge amount of goods. Even ships that are heading to other regions pass by this region,” he said.

## Man offers lift, attacks woman in robbery bid

Pakistani man allegedly slapped her several times in the face and tried to suffocate her

● **The Pakistani man was arrested and is facing a trial before the High Criminal Court.**

TDT|Manama

Ali Tarif

A Thai woman’s attempt to save a few bucks on her ride back home by not taking a taxi only resulted in a face-off with death.

The court details say the woman accepted a lift

offered by a Pakistani man, cancelling plans to take a taxi cab home.

The man brutally attacked the woman after taking her to a different direction in his bid to rob her, it added.

”

**He stopped the car and tried to steal my bag. He snatched my phone and tried to kill me.**

VICTIM

“I was coming out of a building in Manama, and he (the Pakistani man) saw me talking to a taxi driver over phone. He enquired about my destination and offered a lift, which I accepted,” the woman told prosecutors.

“When I realised that he was taking me to a different destination, I started screaming. He stopped the car and tried to steal my bag. He snatched my phone and tried to kill me,” she added.

The Pakistani man allegedly slapped her several times in the face and tried to suffocate her.

“I somehow managed to get out of the car and ran away,” she said.

The Pakistani man was arrested and is facing a trial before the High Criminal Court.

## Sanabis rioters jailed for three years

● **The High Criminal Court said in its verdict that it gave lighter sentences after granting them clemency owing to their ages.**

TDT|Manama

Ali Tarif

The High Criminal Court sentenced three teenaged defendants to three years behind bars each for rioting and vandalism in Sanabis.

The teenagers were encouraged by an unknown man on social media to carry-out their acts, the court details say.

“I was following an account called Jund Al Hujah (Al Hujah Soldiers) on Telegram. He suddenly began encouraging me to burn tyres and banners in Sanabis,” the 19-year-old defendant said.

The first defendant encouraged his accomplices, both of whom aged 15, to take part in riots. “We agreed to set the tyres on fire on September 1, 2017, after fixing the place,” he added.

According to the official records, the defendants received the items used in their sabotage acts from an unknown man too, whom they met in a remote area.

“He gave us five tyres and a bottled petrol and two banners as well as a firebomb. We carried them with us, and we wore masks.

“He was wearing a mask and he came with us. We put the tyres and the banner on the highway near Sanabis and torched them using the firebomb and the petrol,” the 19-year-old boy told prosecutors.

The accused boys weren’t caught at the scene, but police investigations identified their involvement.

The High Criminal Court said in its verdict that it extended to the trio light sentences after granting them clemency owing to their ages.

## Distribution of Khalifa Town housing units underway

Manama

The Housing Ministry said that it had distributed more than 900 housing units to beneficiaries in the Khalifa Town, including 400 ready ones.

The move follows the order of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to distribute 5,000 housing units, within the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to meet the citizens’ needs marking the holy month of Ramadan, and in line with the ongoing efforts of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, to continue implementing its action plan.

The Ministry affirmed that the distribution process went on smoothly, highlighting its commitment to harnessing all its potentials to distribute the units ordered by HRH the Crown



Beneficiaries completing official procedures at the ministry office yesterday.

Prince before the end of August. The Ministry added that once the distribution of the 5,000 units ordered by HRH Crown Prince is completed, it will have reached 25,000 units included in the Government Action Plan.

## Anti-money laundering efforts stressed

Paris

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) comprising a group of experts from the United States of America, Britain, Belgium, Belgium, Canada, India and Egypt have hailed the efforts of

Bahrain to curb money laundering.

They approved Bahrain’s Mutual Evaluation Report (MER), which highlights anti-money laundering initiatives.

The Central Bank of Bank (CBB) undertook the necessary preparations for the Mutual Review Re-

port (MER) in coordination with the Interior Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and the Public Prosecution.