

# BAHRAIN OPENS NEW DOORS IN RUSSIA

Finance Minister Leads High-Level Delegation to Saint Petersburg's Premier Economic Forum

Bahrain arrived at one of the world's most influential economic gatherings this week with a clear message: the Kingdom is open, ambitious, and ready to do business.

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy and Chairman of Mumtalakat Holding Company, led a high-powered Bahraini delegation to the 2026 Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF). He used the platform to hold strategic meetings spanning finance, culture, trade, and investment.



**President Putin Takes the Stage**

The Bahraini delegation attended the forum's flagship plenary session, where Russian President Vladimir Putin delivered the keynote address before heads of state, government



ministers, and global business leaders. The minister said the forum offers a vital space for debating economic challenges and spotting new opportunities as global markets shift at an unprecedented pace.

## Finance Leaders Meet

In one of the delegation's most significant bilateral meetings, Shaikh Salman sat down with his Russian counterpart, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov, to review global economic developments and deepen financial ties between the two nations. The minister conveyed royal greetings from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to President Putin.



Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa and Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov exchange notes on bilateral economic cooperation on the sidelines of SPIEF 2026.

## Beyond Economics: A Cultural Connection



H.E. Shaikh Salman meets Russia's Culture Minister, reflecting Bahrain's commitment to multidimensional engagement.

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## Tatarstan Opens Its Doors

President Rustam Minnikhanov of the Republic of Tatarstan received Shaikh Salman in a warm meeting focused on trade, investment, and knowledge exchange. Both sides expressed a shared desire to build new investment bridges and expand cooperation frameworks that benefit both peoples.



Tatarstan President Minnikhanov welcomes Bahrain's Finance Minister, as both sides pledge to deepen economic ties.



## Sovereign Funds Talk Shop

Rounding out a packed day of diplomacy, H.E. Shaikh Salman met Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), to explore investment opportunities and areas of mutual economic interest — a conversation that could lay the groundwork for future capital partnerships.

The delegation included Industry and Commerce Minister H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Bahrain's Ambassador to Russia H.E. Ahmed Abdulrahman Al Saati, and Mumtalakat CEO H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Bahrain's presence at SPIEF 2026 sends a clear signal: guid-



Shaikh Salman and RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev: sovereign wealth and investment partnerships take centre stage.

ed by royal vision and backed by solid institutions, the Kingdom is actively building the partnerships that will shape its economic future.

# Bahrain promotes fintech and digital assets in Europe



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The Bahrain Economic Development Board has concluded a five-day visit to Spain and Switzerland aimed at strengthening ties with investors, business leaders and industry stakeholders across key European markets.

The delegation was led by Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, who also serves as Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the board.

The programme covered engagements in Barcelona, Zurich and Geneva, with a series of meetings, roundtables and networking events focused on sectors including financial ser-

vices, manufacturing, logistics, tourism, fintech and digital assets.

In Barcelona, the delegation met Spanish investors and business leaders, presenting Bahrain's network of trade and economic cooperation agreements. Officials highlighted opportunities for companies seeking access to markets across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and beyond.

In Switzerland, discussions centred on Bahrain's financial services sector, wealth management ecosystem and regulatory framework. Meetings were held with asset management firms, family offices, and organisations specialising in blockchain and digital assets, reflecting Bahrain's push to

position itself as a regional hub for fintech innovation.

The delegation also partnered with the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services to host Swiss business leaders, showcasing Bahrain's investment climate and long-term economic opportunities.

The visit concluded with talks at the World Economic Forum, where both sides explored potential areas for cooperation and joint initiatives.

The Bahrain Economic Development Board said the trip formed part of its wider strategy to strengthen investor engagement, build long-term partnerships and promote Bahrain as a competitive destination for international investment.

# Global experts meet in Turkey to tackle food waste



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Bahrain has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening national food security and improving the efficiency of global food supply chains, as ministers and experts gathered in Istanbul for an international meeting focused on reducing post-harvest losses.

Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture, Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, took part in the ministerial discussions hosted by Turkey's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the Turkish capital, bringing together ministers from several countries alongside specialists in agriculture, logistics and food security.

The meeting focused on improving the resilience of food systems and reducing waste after harvest, a growing global concern amid ongoing disruptions to international supply chains in recent years.

In his remarks, the Bahraini minister said the country's approach to food security is guided by its leadership, with an emphasis on long-term sustainability and diversification of supply sources. He pointed to national strategies aimed at strengthening food systems, expanding strategic storage capacity, and enhancing regional and international partnerships.

He said recent global disruptions demonstrated the importance of preparedness and flexibility in ensuring the continuous flow of essential food supplies. He added that

Bahrain remains committed to strengthening its national food security framework in line with regional and international developments.

A key focus of his intervention was post-harvest loss reduction, which he described as a central pillar of food security and sustainability. He stressed the importance of adopting modern agricultural technologies, artificial intelligence and digital transformation to improve efficiency, reduce waste and optimise resource management across food supply chains.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the minister thanked the Republic of Turkey for hosting the event and praised the efforts of its Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in facilitating international cooperation on food security.