

# Sitra set for first smart bus station

● Public transport plan to link buses with the future metro network

● Solar stations support sustainability drive

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A senior Bahraini official inspected several public transport projects across the Kingdom, including a future digital bus station expected to become a key milestone in the country's transport modernisation drive.

Fatima Abdullah Al Daen, Undersecretary for Land Transport and Post at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, visited several initiatives implemented by the land transport sector to assess readiness and ensure progress aligns with operational and delivery timelines.

The tour included multiple public bus stations, most notably the Sitra station, which is being developed with support from stc Bahrain. Once



completed, it is expected to become Bahrain's first fully digital bus station, marking a significant step in the country's public transport transformation strategy.

Officials say the project is part of wider efforts to advance Bahrain's national transport strategy and strengthen digital transformation across mobility services, positioning the Kingdom as a regional leader in smart and sustainable transport systems.

During the visit, Al Daen

“Bahrain is expanding solar-powered bus stations to reduce reliance on the electricity grid and support its sustainability goals.”



reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to enhancing public transport infrastructure and expanding partnerships with the private sector to accelerate the delivery of key projects.

She also highlighted ongoing work to develop an integrated public transport network that will connect bus services with a future metro system. This

network aims to improve traffic flow, reduce carbon emissions, and increase access to employment, education, and essential services.

The initiative aligns with the Kingdom's long-term development vision, including efforts to improve economic efficiency and support sustainable urban growth.

## ‘Coffee with a Leader’

National development driven by leadership vision



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Minister of Information, Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al-Noaimi, took part in a youth-focused dialogue session organised by the Lam'a Authority, as part of its “Coffee with a Leader” series, alongside the Minister of Youth Affairs, Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi.

The session brought together members of Lam'a's board of directors and young Bahraini participants, providing an open platform for discussion on leadership, development, and the role of youth in national progress.

During the meeting, Dr. Al-Noaimi stated that Bahrain continues to advance confidently, guided by the vision of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. He said this vision places people at the centre of development and views young citizens as key partners in shaping both the present and the future.

He also highlighted the directives of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, noting that government initia-

“Investing in young people is central to safeguarding our national achievements and strengthening stability”

- DR. RAMZAN BIN ABDULLAH AL-NOAIMI

tives continue to focus on empowering young people and strengthening their participation in national development programmes.

The minister further praised the role of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, describing his initiatives in youth affairs and humanitarian work as instrumental in building a more structured national framework for youth empowerment.

He also commended the Lam'a programme, saying it has played a significant role in developing emerging leaders through training and capacity-building initiatives. He noted that many of its graduates have gone on to make a visible impact in their workplaces, particularly in leadership and administrative roles.

## UAE Stands Firmly With Bahrain

Gulf solidarity on full display as top lawmakers exchange messages of support

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The UAE's Federal National Council President has condemned the Iranian terrorist attacks on Bahrain, saying the kingdom's security was ‘an indivisible part’ of the UAE's own security and of the Gulf security system.

In a letter to Parliament Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Saqr Ghobash said the attacks amounted to a clear breach of Bahrain's sovereignty, security and stability, as well as a grave breach of international law and the rules governing ties between states.

Mr Ghobash said the UAE was following the developments with deep condemnation and stood firmly with Bahrain against any threat to its sovereignty and stability.

“The security of the Kingdom of Bahrain is an indivisible part of the security of the UAE,” he said, adding that any harm to Bahrain's sovereignty and stability was also a blow to Gulf security as a whole.

He said the developments



SAQR GHOBASH, SPEAKER, UAE FEDERAL NATIONAL COUNCIL

“The security of the Kingdom of Bahrain is an indivisible part of the security of the UAE.”



H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Chairman of the Shura Council



H.E. Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Parliament

showed that Gulf states, despite their efforts to shore up stability, peace and de-escalation, still faced treacherous Iranian aggression requiring closer unity, co-ordination and readiness.

Mr Ghobash said Bahrain, under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, had the wisdom, strength and national unity needed to overcome such challenges.

He also praised the long-standing ties between GCC states, saying they would remain a firm barrier against threats to the region's security and stability.

Mr Al Musallam thanked Mr Ghobash for the letter, saying it showed the firm UAE stance, close ties and shared destiny binding Bahrain and the UAE under His Majesty King Hamad and UAE President Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He said Bahrain took pride in the depth of its brotherly ties with the UAE, describing them as strategic ties built on close bonds between the two countries and their peoples.

Meanwhile, Bahrain's Shura Council chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh received a message of support from UAE Feder-

al National Council Speaker Saqr Ghobash, who strongly condemned what he described as Iranian “terrorist attacks” targeting the kingdom.

In the message, Mr Ghobash said the attacks were a blatant violation of Bahrain's sovereignty, security and stability, and a serious breach of international law.

Mr Ghobash also called for greater Gulf solidarity and co-ordination in the face of regional threats, saying GCC unity would remain a strong shield against attempts to undermine regional security and stability.

## Bahrain, Cyprus Discuss Strengthening Cooperation

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The President of Customs, Shaikh Ahmed bin Hamad Al Khalifa, received the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Dr Andreas Eliades, during an official meeting on Monday.

During the meeting, Shaikh Ahmed welcomed the Cypriot ambassador and highlighted



the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries. He noted that ties continue to develop across various sectors,

reflecting growing cooperation and mutual engagement.

Both sides discussed several topics of common interest,

focusing particularly on ways to strengthen cooperation and enhance the exchange of expertise. The discussions also explored opportunities to serve shared interests and support further institutional collaboration.

The meeting occurs as Bahrain continues to expand its international partnerships across customs, trade facilitation, and administrative cooperation.

## Malls Go Beyond Shopping

How Bahrain's Malls Are Redefining Gulf Tourism?



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Shopping malls are becoming one of Bahrain's most powerful tourism assets. That was the central message from Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi as she met with mall operators from across the kingdom to align on strategy ahead of the busy summer season.

The minister said modern malls – combining retail, dining, entertainment and family activities under one roof – now serve visitors of all ages and backgrounds, making them a cornerstone of Bahrain's broader tourism offering.

The meeting was part of regular government-industry coordination sessions tied directly to Bahrain's Tourism Strategy 2022–2026. Al Sairafi stressed that partnerships with shopping centres are not optional extras—they are a structural pillar of the kingdom's tourism growth plan.

Discussions centred on two key campaigns: the “Walahna Alaikum” visitor welcome initiative and an upcoming GCC-targeted summer cam-



“Shopping malls bring together retail, entertainment and hospitality under one roof – and that is exactly what modern tourists are looking for.”

- MINISTER AL SAIRAFI

paign designed to attract families from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE and beyond. Joint promotional packages combining shopping discounts, entertainment events and dining deals are being developed specifically for the Gulf market.