

Cabinet Committee Reviews Home Repairs Following Iran Attack



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Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa chaired the 310th meeting of the Ministerial Committee on Development Projects and Infrastructure, where members reviewed the progress of key development initiatives, infrastructure projects and national achievements.

The committee commended the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning for completing the restoration of another batch of homes in Hidd Housing City and Sitra that were damaged during the recent Iranian at-

tacks. The repairs were carried out within the approved timeframe, in line with the directives of His Majesty the King and the order of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to compensate affected citizens whose homes and vehicles sustained damage.

The meeting also highlighted Bahrain's strong performance in the 2026 ICT Development Index issued by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The Kingdom ranked sixth globally among 159 countries, climbing three places from last year while achieving an overall score of 98 per cent, reflecting continued investment in digital infrastructure and technological advancement.

Royal Charity Organisation Launches Family Psychological Security Study



The Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) has launched a landmark research study titled "Family Psychological Security Under Royal Care for Bahraini Families," developed in partnership with the University of Bahrain. The launch ceremony, held at the RCO's Seef headquarters, was attended by Acting Secretary-General Engineer Ibrahim Dalhan Al-Dosari and University President Dr. Fouad Mohammed Al-Ansari. The study revealed strong outcomes among beneficiar-

ies: 98.3% said RCO support contributed to their sense of psychological security, 97.5% reported the organisation's services helped them adapt after loss, and 95% described the RCO as a trusted refuge in times of need.

The launch coincides with the RCO's 25th anniversary, celebrated under the theme "A Humanitarian Legacy," reinforcing the institution's commitment to evidence-based humanitarian work serving Bahraini families.

AI, Semiconductors Drive New Global Investment Wave



Representatives from several leading government and semi-government organizations attended the launch of the World Investment Report 2026 in Bahain

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Artificial intelligence and advanced technologies are emerging as the biggest magnets for global investment, with billions of dollars flowing into strategic sectors even as geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty reshape where companies choose to invest, according to the World Investment Report 2026.

Speaking at the Bahrain launch of the report, organised by the MENA Centre for Investment at Swiss-Belhotel Seef, Dr. Astrit Sulstarova, Chief of the Trends and Data Section, Division on Investment and Enterprise at UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said, "Our world has entered a period of profound turbulence, reflected in seismic shifts in the global investment landscape," noting that global FDI rose 6 per cent in 2025 to reach \$1.6 trillion.

He said investment has become "more selective and more concentrated," with capital increasingly flowing into AI infrastructure, semiconductors, critical minerals, energy transition technologies and other advanced industries.

Announced greenfield investment in these strategic sectors jumped from \$109 billion in 2020 to \$576 billion in 2025, while AI infrastructure alone attracted \$341 billion last year, fuelled by demand for data centres, cloud



"Investment has become more selective and more concentrated"

DR.ASTRIT SULSTAROVA

computing and digital services. Semiconductor investment also recorded the fastest growth as countries sought to strengthen technology supply chains.

Meanwhile, greenfield investment in traditional manufacturing sectors, including textiles, consumer goods and agribusiness, fell 17 per cent, reducing opportunities for many developing economies.

Bahrain's Investment Shift

On Bahrain, Dr. Sulstarova said FDI inflows fell to around \$800 million in 2025, although cross-border mergers and acquisitions climbed to \$1.4 billion, while international project finance nearly doubled to \$1.7 billion. He said Bahrain and other Gulf countries should strengthen sectors where they

GLOBAL FDI HIGHLIGHTS

\$644 billion	FDI attracted by Asia, the world's largest recipient region
80%+	Share of global FDI received by the top 20 host economies
\$39 billion	India's FDI inflows, up 44%
\$70 billion	FDI attracted by Africa, remaining above its long-term average
14% rise	Growth in Latin America's FDI, driven mainly by Brazil
South-East Asia	Overtook East Asia as the leading investment destination in the region

can build long-term competitive advantages, particularly digital infrastructure and AI. "Rather than competing directly with larger economies, countries should focus on areas where they can build sustainable competitive advantages," he said.

Commenting on the report, Barath Chandran, a data specialist told The Daily Tribune that it provides much-needed clarity on global investment trends. "It offers a clear, honest picture of where investment is really flowing, not just where we hope it's flowing. The fact that strategic sectors now account for 44 per cent of global project value, up from just 16 per cent in 2020, is exactly the trend we're positioning for," he said.

Dr. Hana Abdulla Kanoo, Director of the MENA Centre for Investment, said the report provides valuable insights into the evolving investment landscape. "Through our collaboration with UN Trade and



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- BARATH CHANDRAN, DATA SPECIALIST

Development, we are pleased to bring this important global discussion to Bahrain, fostering dialogue, knowledge sharing and stronger engagement among stakeholders across the region," she said.

XPENG Opens First Showroom in Bahrain

Green Mobility has officially opened the first XPENG showroom in the Kingdom of Bahrain, offering customers a dedicated destination to experience the brand's latest generation of intelligent electric vehicles. Located in Sitra, the facility showcases XPENG's advanced EV lineup and provides integrated sales and customer support services.

The opening marks a key milestone in Green Mobility's partnership with XPENG, enabling customers to explore models including the G9, G6, X9, and P7+, each combining intelligent technology, premium design, and zero-emission performance.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Saad Alzowayed, Assistant



General Manager of Green Mobility, said: "The opening of our first XPENG showroom in Bahrain marks an important milestone in our commitment to advancing intelligent and sustainable mobility in the Kingdom.

More than a showroom, it is a space where customers can experience the future of driving firsthand through XPENG's innovative technologies, exceptional design, and smart electric vehicles. We look forward to welcoming customers and

supporting Bahrain's transition towards a more sustainable transportation ecosystem." "We look forward to welcoming customers and supporting Bahrain's transition towards a more sustainable transportation ecosystem."

Joint Economic Meeting



The Joint Economic Committee of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Bahrain Chamber held its 51st meeting on Wednesday, marking its first session since the appointment of the chamber's new Board of Directors. The meeting was co-chaired by Industry and Commerce Minister Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro and Bahrain Chamber Chairman Nabeel Khalid Kanoo.

Minister Fakhro welcomed the chamber's new leadership and reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to strengthening cooperation with the private sector. He said the committee plays a vital role in improving coordination, supporting the commercial sector, enhancing the business environment, and advancing Bahrain's economic development objectives.

Kanoo thanked the ministry for its continued support, describing the committee as an important platform for addressing key economic priorities and improving business competitiveness. Members also reviewed the progress of recommendations and initiatives from previous meetings to ensure the continued effectiveness of joint public-private sector efforts.