



## Construction of 531 Sitra housing units nears completion

TDT | Manama

The construction work on the Sitra Housing Project is progressing according to schedule, with the second phase, comprising 531 housing units, now 90% complete.

Infrastructure work in the same phase has reached 80%, reflecting strong alignment with the project's timeline.

This was emphasised by Her Excellency Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi, Minister of Housing and Urban Planning.

### Final phase

The third phase of the project, which includes 1,269 housing units, the largest and final phase of the development, has surpassed 10% completion, with further progress expected in the coming period.

The first phase, which comprised 1,077 units, along with the residential plots, has already been delivered to beneficiaries.

The update came during Minister Al Rumaihi's field visit to the Sitra Housing Project.

## Ten rescued from sinking cargo ship

AFP | Dubai

Ten people have been rescued after Yemen's Houthis sank a cargo ship, an EU naval force said yesterday, with three killed and 12 missing in one of the rebel group's deadliest Red Sea attacks.

Three Filipino crew and a Greek member of the Eternity C ship's onboard security team were plucked from the sea overnight, "bringing the total number of those rescued to 10", the European Union's Operation Aspidos naval task force posted on X.

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# Bahrain Grooms Future Government Leaders Through Fellowship

## Year-long PMO placement

## Policy, research, leadership focus

## Open to civil servants

Mahir Haneef  
TDT | Manama

Applications are now open for the 11th intake of the Prime Minister's Fellowship

Program, a year-long initiative designed to train and empower Bahrain's next generation of public sector leaders.

The announcement was made yesterday by the Prime Minister's Office, which will accept applications until Sunday, 10 August. Government employees below managerial level are eligible to apply through the official website.

### Hands-On Governance

The fellowship gives selected Bahraini professionals the opportunity to work directly



within the Prime Minister's Office for a full year, engaging in high-level policy research, leadership development, and strategic analysis.

The programme is aligned with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown

Prince and Prime Minister, who has consistently emphasised the importance of building capacity within the national workforce to drive Bahrain's development forward.

### Training for Impact

Participants will receive structured mentorship and exposure to real-time government decision-making.

According to the PMO, the skills and experience gained are intended to empower fellows to make a measurable impact

once they return to their original posts in various government bodies.

The initiative is part of broader efforts to embed a culture of innovation, efficiency, and accountability in Bahrain's public service.

### Final push for applicants

Interested civil servants have until the second Sunday of August to apply for the fellowship, which has earned recognition as a launchpad for careers in public leadership.

# Fintech Reckoning

## H.E. Shaikh Salman Powers Bold Banking Reset

## Fintech fuels policy direction

## Private sector partnerships key

## Innovation drives sector growth

Mahir Haneef  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is embracing innovation as the next frontier in financial services, with the government signalling a decisive move toward fintech-driven development as part of its economic diversification efforts.

Finance and National Economy Minister His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said the Kingdom is committed to advancing its banking sector by embedding creativity, sustainability, and digital innovation into its future direction.

This approach, H.E. noted, aligns with Bahrain's broader development strategy under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Speaking during the launch ceremony of a rebranded financial institution in Manama on Wednesday, H.E. Shaikh Salman emphasised that the financial and banking sector remains a cornerstone of Bahrain's economic engine.

### Innovation Push

"Bahrain continues to prioritise the development of a



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa with dignitaries, including H.E. Kuwaiti Ambassador Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and senior officials from Bahrain's financial ecosystem at the launch ceremony



Bahrain was the first country in the GCC to establish a dedicated fintech regulatory sandbox in 2017 to support financial startups.

high-performing financial and banking system capable of supporting growth, sustainability, and the Kingdom's position as a global financial centre," H.E. said.

His Excellency added that fostering innovation and embracing



ing cutting-edge technologies would unlock new service models, catalyse job creation, and strengthen Bahrain's economic competitiveness.

A forward-looking regulatory framework, he said, is key to enabling this transformation, H.E. stated.

### Private Sector Role

H.E. the Minister under-

scored the role of private sector partnerships in driving these efforts, pointing to Bahrain's ongoing collaboration with banks and investment firms to create quality opportunities for citizens and attract foreign capital.

His Excellency noted that the Kingdom's legislative and regulatory landscape is designed to keep pace with global fintech trends, encouraging innovation

while maintaining financial stability.

The government's strategy includes continued efforts to diversify Bahrain's economic base, stimulate investment, and sustain momentum in the financial sector.

These priorities, the Minister said, would contribute to achieving positive development indicators and long-term economic resilience.

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries including His Excellency Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Bahrain, and senior officials from Bahrain's financial ecosystem.

With clear signals of policy direction and a supportive regulatory environment, Bahrain is positioning itself for a fintech-first future in the global financial arena.