

Bahrain, Pakistan commit to strengthened security links

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His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa commended the distinguished historical relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Pakistan and their keenness to strengthen existing security cooperation and open new horizons for the exchange of expertise.

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah was speaking as he met President Asif Ali Zardari yesterday at the start of his visit to Pakistan, which comes within the framework of the fraternal relations and close historical ties between the two nations.

They discussed several issues of common interest, in addition



H.E. Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa with Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and senior officials

to reviewing the existing cooperation and friendship relations at various levels, especially in security.

Greetings

The Interior Minister conveyed the greetings and appreciation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and their wishes for progress and prosperity for Pakistanis.

President Zardari emphasised that Pakistan highly values its relations with Bahrain, which are deeply rooted and enjoy close people-to-people ties.

He expressed appreciation for the existing cooperation between the two countries and his hope for enhanced cooperation in security, immigration, counterterrorism and fighting drug trafficking.

The Pakistani leader noted Pakistan's commitment to strengthening its partnership

with Bahrain.

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah was also received by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who praised the distinguished and strong relations between the two countries.

Sharif noted that Pakistan is keen to deepen bilateral cooperation with Bahrain in all fields,

expressing his appreciation for the care and attention the Pakistani community in the Kingdom receives.

During the meeting, HE the Interior Minister reviewed several community security projects in Bahrain, including programmes to promote national belonging and values, the alternative sentencing project, and the open prisons programme, and their role in strengthening criminal justice and affirming human rights in the Kingdom.

During the meeting, areas of cooperation and coordination that contribute to enhancing communication and developing joint action to address security challenges were discussed, along with several regional security issues and developments.

Appeals Court rejects insurer's BD2,500 claim



Abduladheem Hubail, lawyer

Rehab Mohammad
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The High Commercial Appeals Court has rejected an insurance company's claim seeking nearly BD2,500 from a Bahraini citizen, nine years after a traffic accident, according to lawyer Abduladheem Hubail.

Court documents show the case dates back to 2015, when a vehicle insured by the plaintiff company was damaged in an accident caused by the defendant, Hubail's client.

A traffic report confirmed the defendant was at fault, and the insurer later paid BD2,481 in repair costs.

The insurance company argued it was entitled to recover the amount by substituting itself in the rights of the insured and subsequently filed a lawsuit.

The Court of First Instance initially ruled in the company's favor, ordering the defendant to pay the sum.

Facility upgrades

Capital Trustees Board sets roads, drainage, lighting and parking as priorities

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Streetlight upgrades, new parks and more public toilets are among the priorities set by the Capital Trustees Board as it opened its fourth session yesterday.

The meeting, attended by Municipalities Minister, His Excellency Wael Al Mubarak, also signed off specialised committees for 2025–2026 and laid out work on roads, drainage, lighting, parking and community schemes.

Plan

Chairman Eng. Saleh Taher Tarradah reviewed the previous term's work and said the plan for the year aims to raise the quality of municipal services, develop parks and public facilities and build stronger links with residents.

The minister said the ministry would work closely with the board on projects ahead, noting joint work on infrastructure, urban planning and service delivery.

Members approved the minutes of the last sitting, noted the ministry's replies to proposals lodged during the recess and endorsed the standing general



The Capital Trustees Board meeting in progress

Committee's recommendations.

Committees

They then confirmed the lineup of four specialised committees for the new term.

Dr Kholoud Al Qattan will chair Public Relations and Media, with Dr Wafaa Ajour as vice-chair and membership of Fatima Al Haji and Eng. Huda Sultan.

The Technical Committee will be led by Mubarak Al Nuaimi, with Maytham Al Hayki as vice-chair and Dr Bashar Ahmadi and Eng. Mohammed Tawfiq as members. Services and Public Facilities will be chaired by Eng. Mohammed Tawfiq Al Abbas, with Fatima Al Haji as vice-chair and mem-



“The plan for the year aims to raise the quality of municipal services, develop parks and public facilities and build stronger links with residents.”

- ENG. SALEH TAHER TARRADAH, CAPITAL TRUSTEES BOARD CHAIRMAN

bership of Dr Abdelhassan Al Deiri, Eng. Huda Sultan and Dr Wafaa Ajour.

The Financial and Legal Committee will be chaired by Eng. Huda Sultan, with Dr Abdel-

hassan Al Deiri as vice-chair and membership of Dr Bashar Ahmadi, Maytham Al Hayki and Mubarak Al Nuaimi.

Members pointed to practical steps to ease parking pressure, upgrade roads and lighting and expand or refurbish parks and public spaces.

They also discussed work on markets and heritage-style facilities, support for investment with the private sector and community schemes such as the 'Friends of Parks' initiative.

The session closed with the board and the ministry saying they would continue to work together to meet residents' needs and strengthen Manama's standing as a modern capital with reliable services.

Food trucks to be Bahraini-only under new bill



MP Khalid Buanaq
Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Food trucks would be Bahraini-run only, keep 50 metres from junctions and trade 6am to midnight under a bill now before Parliament.

The sponsors are MPs Khalid Buanaq, Ahmed Al Salloom and Hisham Al Awadhi.

Applicants would have to be Bahraini, gain approvals from the Ministry of Health and the General Directorate of Civil Defence, register vehicles with the General Directorate of Traffic, and secure municipal clearance for designated parking in co-ordination with the relevant bodies.

Each vehicle would display its trade name and Commercial Registration number.

Activity

Licences linked to this activity would not allow permits to bring in foreign labour.

Before parking to trade, operators would need written consent from the property owner.

Stopping in street verges or directly in front of residential buildings would be barred.

A 50-metre stand-off from road junctions, roundabouts and traffic lights would apply, with at least one metre left between the truck and other vehicles on all sides.

Electrical connections must be safe, the site kept clean with waste placed in the proper bins, public-safety and Civil Defence rules followed, and noise that disturbs nearby buildings avoided.

On residential land, trading would run from 6am to 12 midnight. Trucks could not remain in the area outside those hours and no equipment or furniture may be left behind.

Evaluation Raised, Impact Measured

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's landmark award for women's empowerment is raising the bar. The HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award has launched its eighth edition for 2024–2026 with upgraded evaluation mechanisms, aiming to ensure measurable outcomes in gender balance and align with national progress on women's advancement.

Her Highness Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa said the award, envisioned by HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, has become a national platform that honours institutional and individual efforts contributing to women's advancement. Over eight cy-



HH Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa

cles, the award has consolidated a culture of empowerment, spotlighted inspiring national models, and contributed to institutional policies supporting women's participation in public and economic life. H.H. Shai-

kha Hessa stressed that these achievements reflect the Kingdom's commitment to sustainable development goals.

H.H. revealed that the current edition introduces a qualitative development in evaluation mechanisms, keeping pace with the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women. This upgrade is designed to reflect the Kingdom's progress and ensure that recognition goes beyond symbolism.

H.H. Shaikha Hessa called on entities, institutions and individuals to engage positively and present initiatives that embody equal opportunity commitments. She affirmed that the Supreme Council for Women, under the directives of HRH Princess Sabeeka.

GCC military meeting held in Bahrain



The 17th meeting of the GCC Armed Forces Administration and Manpower Committee was held yesterday at the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), under the chairmanship of Major General Shaikh Ali bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Assistant Chief of Staff for Human Resources. The meeting was convened as part of efforts to strengthen joint military cooperation and to enhance collective coordination in administration and manpower, thereby contributing to advancing the progress of GCC military cooperation and integration.