

MP calls for greater investment in Youth

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's young people are its greatest wealth and the foundation for its future, MP Hassan Ebrahim said in a statement marking International



MP Hassan Ebrahim

al Youth Day. He urged sustained investment in their ideas and energy, describing it as the surest means to secure Bahrain's future.

He pointed to the Royal patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which he said provides the solid ground for all efforts to empower the younger generation and shows His Majesty's deep trust in their role as the country's beating heart. This, he added, is carried through by the close involve-

ment of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, whose national programmes create a supportive environment, open the way for active participation in decision-making, develop skills and strengthen a sense of belonging. This year's theme, 'Empower-

ing Youth for a Sustainable Future', is, he said, being translated into practical steps. These include building trust with young people, sharpening their abilities and instilling responsibility and creativity, producing a generation that is making its mark in the fields of innovation and service, and driving the country's

development. MP Ebrahim urged all bodies to keep backing young people and widen their opportunities, adding that building a country begins with building its people and broadening their thinking, so they can continue to write Bahrain's success story with determination and imagination.

ICRF marks 8th week of 'Thirst Quenchers 2025' in Sitra

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The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) Bahrain yesterday held the eighth week of its Thirst Quenchers 2025 summer awareness campaign at a work site in Sitra, distributing water, juice, laban, fruit and other refreshments to around 500 workers.

The initiative, aligned with the Ministry of Labour's drive to ensure safe working conditions during the peak summer months, is supported by the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and the



International Organization for Migration (IOM). Around 500

workers took part in the event. Mr Hasan Al Aradi - Head of

Occupational Safety & Health Inspection and Eng. Hussain

Al Husaini - Head of Workers, Residence Inspection from the Ministry of Labour, and Mr Fahad AlBinali - Director of Partnership & Outreach from LMRA have joined the distribution and spoke about the support extended to the workers by each organisations.

Special guest was His Excellency Mr. Tirtha Raj Wagle, Ambassador of Embassy of Nepal. His Excellency appreciated the efforts taken by LMRA and Ministry of Labour for workers' safety.

ICRF Advisor Dr Babu Ramachandran, Vice Chairman Pankaj Nallur, Joint Secretaries

Suresh Babu and Javad Pasha, Treasurer Uday Shanbhagh, Thirst Quenchers Coordinators Siraj, Faizal and Sivakumar, Rakesh Sharma, Muralikrishnan, Chemban Jalal, Kalpana Patil, Sandra Palanna, Althea D'Souza, Linson Lazar - HSE Manager, Chengwu - Deputy Project Manager, along with enthusiastic volunteers and students have joined the distribution.

Manav Dharam Sena and Science of Spirituality supported yesterday's event.

As in previous years, the Bohra community and generous volunteers have shown strong support for this project.

Diversification Drives Q1 Growth

Non-oil sectors dominate GDP

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Bahrain's economy strengthened in the first quarter of 2025 as non-oil sectors took centre stage, contributing 84.8 percent to real GDP and reinforcing the Kingdom's diversification drive, according to the Ministry of Finance and National Economy's latest quarterly report.

Non-oil momentum

Preliminary national accounts data from the Information and eGovernment Authority showed GDP expanding 2.7 percent year-on-year in real terms, driven by



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy

a 2.2 percent rise in non-oil activity and a 5.3 percent increase in oil activity. In nominal terms, GDP was up 3.0 percent, with

non-oil output climbing 2.8 percent and oil activity advancing 4.6 percent.

Accommodation and Food Services led the growth tables with a 10.3 percent jump, reflecting strong performance in tourism and hospitality. Financial and Insurance Activities, the single largest contributor to GDP, posted a 7.5 percent gain in real terms. Construction grew by 5.4 percent, followed by Education at 2.5 percent, while Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities rose 2.2 percent. Wholesale and Retail Trade and Real Estate Activities each expanded 2.0 percent, Transportation and Storage grew by 1.9 percent, and Information and Communication Activities edged up 1.4 percent. Manufacturing was the only sector to contract, dipping

0.4 percent.

The report also highlighted a 3.5 percent year-on-year increase in Inward Foreign Direct Investment stock, which reached BHD 17.1 billion in Q1 2025.

Strategic progress

Officials noted that Bahrain continues to advance in several international economic and development benchmarks, citing the adoption of ambitious strategies and initiatives aimed at strengthening economic diversification, aligning with global standards, and enhancing the business environment.

The Q1 results signal that Bahrain's non-oil sectors are sustaining growth while shaping the country's long-term economic trajectory.

Director Kamal Inaugurates Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam Children's Wing Activities



Pradeep Puravankara
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Renowned Malayalam film director Kamal officially inaugurated the new committee activities and inducted the

executive committee of the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) Children's Wing in Manama. The event showcased a vibrant display of young talent and cultural programs.

A children's play titled "Lit-

tle Pulga," directed by Hareesh Menon and written by Firoz Thiruvathra, was staged as part of the program, drawing significant appreciation. Other notable performances included a Kamal Tribute Song presented by the



Children's Wing members, and a "Cine Talk" segment, directed by Hashim Charumood, featuring performances by the younger children of the wing.

The ceremony was presided over by P.V. Radhakrishna

Pillai, President of the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam. General Secretary Varghese Karakkal delivered the welcome address. Children's Wing President Aayana Sujith and Secretary Priyamvada N.S. were also present at

the event.

During the function, Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam honored Director Kamal with a memento and a traditional 'ponnada' (shawl), acknowledging his presence and contribution.