

Path to Recovery

Positive momentum builds across Bahrain's private sector

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

After a quieter stretch shaped by wider geopolitical uncertainty, Bahrain's business landscape is beginning to recover. Across Manama, activity is gradually picking up across retail, services, and real estate, with customers and investors slowly returning to the market.

In an attempt to understand the road to recovery, The Daily Tribune spoke to several business owners, experts and entrepreneurs.

Real Estate

Eman Mohammed Al Mannai, a Certified International Property Specialist reflected on Bahrain's real estate journey from the onset of the conflict.

"The real estate market has shown notable stability in recent weeks, operating on a 'two-speed' recovery of high-end scarcity versus mid-market oversupply." During recent regional tensions, activity saw a tactical pause rather than a sell-off, with buyers delaying decisions and sellers in areas like Juffair and Seef offering more flexible terms to secure deals.

By mid-April 2026, confidence is gradually returning, making it a more buyer-friendly market.



"The real estate market has shown notable stability in recent weeks, operating on a 'two-speed' recovery of high-end scarcity versus mid-market oversupply."

EMAN MOHAMMED AL MANNAI



"In difficult times, success belongs to those who stay rooted in their community,"

DONA MARIA GEMAYEL



"We are hopeful conditions will improve, but it may take time to fully return to normal."

SUSHMA GUPTA



small factories return to full output.

He said keeping the sector productive calls for an immediate and focused support package, including delaying or rescheduling finance and bank dues without extra interest, speeding up payment of money owed to companies by state bodies, giving SMEs priority in government tenders and purchases, and easing running fees for a temporary period.



"These firms do not need years to recover, they need quick decisions that restore confidence and cashflow." - MP Ahmed Al Salloom

MP AHMED AL SALLOOM

AI Scrutiny Tightens in Classrooms



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Hasan Barakat

Students in Bahrain are being encouraged to rely more on original thinking as schools strengthen efforts to curb academic plagiarism and the overuse of artificial intelligence in assignments.

The Ministry of Education has introduced practical measures to verify student work, including using tools such as GPTZero and Plagiarism Detector to check the authenticity of research and projects. The initiative comes amid growing concern that some students may be relying heavily on AI-generated content instead of developing their own ideas.

Educators say the technology helps them better understand student learning. "We started noticing a pattern: polished language, perfect structure, but when you ask the student to explain their work, they struggle," said one secondary school teacher. "The tools help us have an honest conversation about what learning actually means." Officials stressed that the focus is not only on enforcement but also on promoting academic honesty, critical thinking, and deeper engagement with learning materials.

The move has also been welcomed by many parents who have raised concerns about the impact of artificial intelligence on independent thinking. The ministry has encouraged greater awareness among families to promote responsible use of technology beyond the classroom.

Back to School or Stay Online

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Public and private school students in Bahrain will be able to choose between staying with online learning and returning to classrooms, as the Education Ministry moves to carry teaching and exams through to the end of the second term.

Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Education Minister said in an Instagram video on Sunday that all pupils in public schools, from Year 1 to Year 12, will be offered two choices from next Sunday: to keep learning online or to return to school in person. Private schools, meanwhile, will be free to decide their own teaching and exam plans.

Public schools will spend this week contacting parents and pupils to find out which option they want for the next stage.



"This approach ensures education continues while adapting to different circumstances."

DR MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK JUMA, EDUCATION MINISTER

Mr Juma said the same room for choice would apply to tests. Students who return to school will be able to sit exams on campus or through remote learning. At school, they may take exams online using school devices or sit them on paper in the classroom. In special cases, exams may also be taken at home, as happened during the first evaluation period.

For students who return in person, school transport will restart, canteens will reopen and activities inside and outside class will carry on as usual. Those who stay online will continue under the same approach used in recent weeks, with teaching centred on the core parts of the curriculum and the main subjects.

Mr Juma said private schools would be free to decide whether they want to keep remote learning or return to classroom teaching. They will also choose

the date of any return and decide how assessments are carried out.

"These two options will provide the flexibility needed to deal with different circumstances while keeping the learning process going until the end of the second term," he said.

He added that higher education institutions would receive separate instructions through an official statement, which would also make clear that there would be flexibility in attendance and in how students are evaluated.

Mr Juma also said the ministry expects the academic year to end with graduation ceremonies open to any institution that wants to hold them, including public schools, private schools and early education institutions, especially kindergartens.



Public Schools

- Choice between online or in-person learning
- Schools to confirm student preferences
- In-person classes resume April 19

Private Schools

- Can choose online or classroom learning
- Must notify Ministry of Education if returning to in-person teaching

Month-Long Indian Network Outage Hits Expats in Bahrain

TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara

Thousands of Indian expatriates in Bahrain are facing significant challenges because Indian mobile signals have been unavailable across the Kingdom for over a month. The prolonged disruption has cut off access to essential One-Time Passwords (OTPs) and critical SMS alerts required for various official and

financial transactions.

The issue has primarily affected those who rely on their Indian SIM cards to access net banking, government portals, and other digital services in India. Without the ability to receive OTPs, many residents cannot complete urgent fund transfers, pay bills, or update official records.

The situation has caused widespread concern in the community, as both common workers and prominent busi-



ness owners report being unable to manage their Indian accounts. "Important banking messages are not arriving, and we are worried about the se-

curity of our accounts and the inability to perform time-sensitive transactions," complained several affected residents.

While the exact technical reason for the month-long signal blackout remains unclear, NRIs are urging Indian telecom providers and authorities to intervene and restore roaming services to ensure they can manage their home-country affairs without further disruption.



1. Switch Networks Manually

Try changing your phone settings from automatic to manual network selection and connect to available providers.

2. Enable Roaming & Adjust Network Mode

Turn on data roaming and switch your device to 4G/LTE mode to improve connectivity and signal detection.

3. Use a Local SIM for Reliability

Consider purchasing a Bahrain-based SIM card for stable access to calls, SMS, and essential services, especially for urgent transactions.