

Stronger cooperation to enhance financial performance

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Bahrain’s financial performance can only be strengthened through closer coordination between ministries and government entities.

This was emphasised by His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, as he stressed that effective co-operation is vital for implementing plans and programmes that improve government efficiency and achieve national goals.

Speaking during a meeting with directors of joint financial services, Shaikh Salman said recent achievements at various levels reflect “Team Bahrain’s commitment to excellence and creativity in every domain.”

Shaikh Salman noted that these efforts support the comprehensive development process led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and follow the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.



He urged officials to continue working as one team to deliver further accomplishments in line with the Kingdom’s development aspirations. The minister emphasised the importance of adhering to approved financial systems and policies, while continuing to refine them in accordance with global best practices to ensure fiscal sustainability.

He also highlighted the need for innovative ideas and initiatives to enhance the quality of government services and better meet the needs of citizens.

Man held for manufacturing and selling narcotic ‘tombak’

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The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science has arrested a 40-year-old Asian national for manufacturing and selling the narcotic substance ‘tombak’.

The arrest was part of the directorate’s efforts to maintain public order and combat crime.

Investigation

The directorate explained that, upon receiving information, investigation operations were carried out, leading to the identification and arrest of the suspect.

Legal measures were taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

The directorate urged the public to report any information related to unlawful acts by calling the hotline 996, available 24/7, noting that all information will be treated with strict confidentiality.

‘Arrest’ over forged Bahraini passports



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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has confirmed it is closely following up on reports circulating on social media regarding the arrest of two Syrian women in Indonesia for allegedly possessing forged Bahraini passports.

In coordination with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the relevant authorities in Syria and Indonesia, the ministry said it is monitoring the circumstances of the incident and taking the necessary legal measures.

Whistleblower Sparks Food Fraud Trial

Courage leads to crackdown

- Worker records expiry scam
- Court verdict due August 20
- Fines, jail, and deportations

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A lone warehouse employee’s refusal to falsify food expiry dates has triggered one of Bahrain’s largest food fraud cases in recent years, with the Third High Criminal Appeals Court set to deliver its verdict on August 20.

The case began when the

worker reported to the Northern Governorate Police that he had been coerced into altering expiry dates on expired food products. He provided video evidence showing the process of removing original dates and replacing them with false ones, prompting the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to swiftly shut down the warehouse and related outlets.

Massive evidence haul

Investigators from the Public Prosecution inspected the warehouse, questioned 29 suspects, and seized more than 14,000 expired food items along with chemicals used to erase original dates. Forensic examination confirmed the tampering, and some falsified products were



found for sale in other markets.

The original ruling by the first-instance court imposed prison sentences ranging from two to three years, fines exceeding BD200,000, and the closure of both companies

each sentenced to two years, with all foreign defendants to be deported after serving their sentences.

Food safety warning

Additionally, both food distribution companies were fined BD10,000 each, and all spoiled and counterfeit products and related tools were ordered to be confiscated and destroyed. Public Prosecution officials reiterated that food safety is a top priority and warned that endangering public health constitutes a serious crime that will be met with strict legal action.

The defence has appealed, seeking to overturn the convictions and acquit their clients. The final verdict will be issued on August 20.

Economic Resilience Hailed by MP

Parliamentarian backs tourism-led progress

- MP cites sustainable growth
- Tourism strategy deemed success
- FDI rise shows investor trust

Mahir Haneef
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Bahrain’s first-quarter economic performance reflects a nation capable of achieving balanced and sustainable growth despite global headwinds, according to MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen.

She said the latest quarterly economic report underscored the strength and resilience of the national economy, crediting targeted policies with steering the Kingdom toward steady development.

Policy impact

Dr Al Dhaen pointed to a 2.7



Bahrain’s tourism strategy (2022-2026) aims to make the sector one of the top contributors to GDP by expanding events, hospitality capacity, and international visitor markets.

per cent rise in gross domestic product, driven by a 2.2 per cent increase in non-oil activities, as evidence of the success of diversification efforts and the bolstering of productive and service sectors. She noted that non-oil activities contributed 84.8 per cent of GDP at constant prices, signalling a qualitative shift in Bahrain’s economic



MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen

Tourism success

The MP highlighted the accommodation and food services sector’s 10.3 per cent growth as a sign of the tourism industry’s vitality. She credited the expansion of hospitality infrastructure, broader guest offerings, and Bahrain’s hosting of major international events for boosting hotel occupancy and attracting visitors from across

the region and beyond. These outcomes, she said, confirmed the effectiveness of the 2022–2026 tourism strategy in making the sector a key economic pillar and in creating quality jobs.

Investor confidence

Dr Al Dhaen also praised the performance of financial and insurance activities, along with gains in education and construction, as proof of a diversified base for sustained growth. She pointed to a 3.5 per cent increase in foreign direct investment, which reached BHD 17.1 billion, as a reflection of investor trust in Bahrain’s business climate and the government’s success in attracting capital and enhancing competitiveness.

Steady path ahead

She concluded that Bahrain is advancing steadily toward its economic and development goals, supported by the leadership’s vision, ongoing backing for vital sectors, and continued investment in infrastructure and human capital.

Two jailed for forcing woman into prostitution

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Two men have each been sentenced to three years in prison and fined BD2,000 for human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The High Criminal Court also ordered them to cover the cost of returning the victim to her home country and ruled they be permanently deported from Bahrain once their jail terms are served.

Report

The Trafficking in Persons Prosecution said the case began with a report from the Anti Human Trafficking Directorate at the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence.

Investigators alleged the men had promised the woman a job in Bahrain, but on her arrival confined her in a flat and threatened her to force her into prostitution.