

Renewed push

Shura Council to vote on \$769mln fund accounts after MPs' rejection last year

● **Approval sought again as reserve fund assets rise by end of 2023**

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TDT | Manama

Despite rejection by Parliament last October, the Shura Council's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee is urging members to approve the Future Generations Reserve Fund's 2023 accounts after the fund's assets climbed to \$768.9 million by 31 December 2023, with the matter due to be put to a vote next Sunday.

MPs, in Decision No. (10) issued on 21 October 2025, declined to approve the annual report and audited financial statements, citing observations.

The Shura committee's report recommends approval, while adding its own notes and follow-up points.

Profit

The audited statements show the fund swung back into profit in 2023, recording \$64.3 million for the year after a loss of about \$70.8 million in 2022.

The annual return was 8.4 per cent in 2023, compared with minus 11.5 per cent the year before.

The accumulated reserve stood at \$542.7 million at end-2023.

Oil-sale receipts or dues recorded for the year totalled \$92.4 million, up from \$54.5 million in 2022.

Crude

Under the law establishing the reserve, funding comes from a \$1 deduction from the price of



The Future Generations Reserve Fund's board plans to move investments outside Bahrain and exit local investments during 2026.

each exported barrel of crude sold above \$40.

Law No. (16) of 2022 raised the deducted amounts in steps linked to higher oil prices.

The committee also drew attention to amounts due to the fund, saying the balance of in-



Khalid Al Maskati, Head of Financial and Economic Affairs Committee

debtedness reached \$13.6 million at end-2023, up from about \$7.7 million a year earlier, and called for closer follow-up on collection.

Expenses

Operating expenses rose to

about \$6.1 million in 2023 from roughly \$5.5 million in 2022, which the committee linked mainly to higher salaries and other costs.

It proposed looking at paying running costs directly from the reserve account to reduce repeat strain on the state budget and to present the fund's position in a clearer way.

Investment

In the response cited in the report, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, speaking for the fund's board, said it follows a conservative investment approach and that losses can occur.

It also said the board plans to move investments outside Bahrain and exit local investments during 2026, while a tower project is due to be handed over in 2026.

Bahrain and Pakistan cooperation boosts women's advancement



HRH Princess Sabeeka with H.E. Aseefa Bhutto Zardari
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Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), emphasised that such cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Pakistan supports shared objectives in consolidating the principles of equality and equal opportunities in the field of women's advancement.

HRH Princess Sabeeka was speaking as she received Her Excellency Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, First Lady of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at the headquarters of the SCW.

Visit

Her Royal Highness welcomed the First Lady and wished her a pleasant stay in the Kingdom of Bahrain, highlighting the importance of the visit in strengthening bilateral cooperation and promoting the exchange of distinguished experiences and best practices in the field of women's advancement between Bahrain and Pakistan.

HRH Princess Sabeeka praised the First Lady's keen interest in the Global Women's Empowerment Award and her personal participation in the side event held on the sidelines of the Second World Summit for Social Development

(WSSD2) in Doha in November 2025, which introduced the third edition of the Award.

Her Royal Highness expressed her appreciation for the content of the address delivered by the First Lady during the event, commending its thoughtful and balanced approach, particularly her emphasis that "the Award symbolises the values of inclusion, equality and equal opportunity, and reflects the belief that women's empowerment is not only a matter of justice, but a key driver in unlocking the potential of societies and advancing sustainable development for all."

Appreciation

HRH Princess Sabeeka also expressed her appreciation for Pakistan's participation in the third edition of the Award, wishing all participants continued success.

For her part, the First Lady of Pakistan commended the pioneering role of the Supreme Council for Women and the outstanding efforts led by Her Royal Highness the Wife of the King and President of the Council in consolidating the principles of women's empowerment, supporting their advancement, and strengthening their effective participation across all areas of development.

Pakistan president visits Bahrain EDB



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa welcomes H.E. President Asif Ali Zardari

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His Excellency Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari visited the Bahrain Economic Development Board (Bahrain EDB) as part of His Excellency's official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

H.E. President Zardari was received by H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister; H.E. Dr. Abdulatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy; H.E. Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the Bahrain EDB; H.E. Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro Minister of Industry and Commerce; H.E. Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB); H.E. Sameer Abdulla Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI); and other senior officials.



The visit would support efforts to identify new opportunities to enhance trade and direct investment between the two countries.

Ties

H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah welcomed the Pakistani President and accompanying delegation, noting that the visit reflects the longstanding ties between the two countries, supported by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He said the visit underscores

the shared vision of the leaderships of both countries to further develop bilateral relations and expand cooperation in the areas of investment and economic development in line with mutual interests.

The Deputy Prime Minister also highlighted the mutual trust underpinning Bahraini-Pakistani relations and commended the significant contributions of the Pakistani community to the Kingdom of Bahrain's overall development.

He expressed hope that the visit would support efforts to identify new opportunities to enhance trade and direct investment between the two countries.

The Finance Minister gave a presentation on Bahrain's competitive investment environment, highlighting major development projects, the Board's role in attracting direct investment to priority economic sectors, the services it provides to investors, and Bahrain's ongoing efforts to diversify its economic base.

BTEA extends Hawa Al Manama festival for two more days

● **Events set for today and tomorrow from 5pm until 12 midnight**

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The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) announced the extension of the Hawa Al Manama festival for an additional two days, in light of the strong turnout the event has witnessed since its launch and in response to requests from participants and Manama Souq traders to extend its duration.

The authority said that the event will welcome visitors today and tomorrow from 5:00 pm until 12:00 midnight, amid continued high attendance by citizens, residents, and visitors, and the positive interaction generated by the diverse tourism experiences it offers.

Experiences

Hawa Al Manama features a range of innovative experiences inspired by the period spanning the 1960s to the 1990s, a phase marked by significant cultural and economic transformations.

It also includes cultural and heritage activities designed to reflect the authenticity of the location and the nature of its associated experiences, such as specialised performances, historical exhibitions, and experiences that revive details of daily life in the souq over the past decades, in addition to interactive spaces dedicated to families and visitors of all age groups.

Ministry launches remote inspection service for land transport sector



H.E. Fatima Abdullah Al Dhaen
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As part of government efforts to improve service quality and reengineer procedures, the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications launched a remote inspection service for the land transport sector, as a new digital service aimed at expediting the rectification of violations and enhancing the efficiency of regulatory operations.

H.E. Fatima Abdullah Al Dhaen, Undersecretary for Land Transport and Post Affairs, said the service reflects the ministry's adoption of innovative digital solutions to enhance inspection efficiency.