

Bahrain Presents Development Progress Report at UN

Kingdom highlights SDG achievements across key national pillars



Bahrain presented its Third Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in New York. Minister of Sustainable Development and Bahrain EDB Chief Executive Noor Alkhulaif delivered the review on July 11, reaffirming the Kingdom's commitment to accelerating SDG progress under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal High-

ness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. **Four Pillars Drive National Strategy** The review outlines Bahrain's SDG localisation across four pillars: empowering human capital, preserving heritage and national identity, securing the future, and promoting economic sustainability. It also highlights the Kingdom's structured approach to monitoring progress using national indicators and stakeholder collaboration.

Alkhulaif pointed to sustained investment in education, healthcare and skills development, with efforts to equip Bahrainis with future-ready capabilities, empower youth, and advance women's participation. Precision medical technologies, modernised curricula and expanded academic programmes were among the initiatives cited. She also underscored Bahrain's dedication to cultural preservation and its role as a global model for tolerance and coexistence.



Noor Alkhulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development and Bahrain EDB Chief Executive

India-Bahrain Partnership Scales New Heights



Pradeep Puravankara TDT | Manama

India and Bahrain have deepened their strategic partnership across diplomacy, trade, consular services and maritime security, said Indian Ambassador H.E. Vinod K. Jacob said at a press briefing at the Indian Embassy in Manama. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Bahrain on July 6-7, 2026, meeting His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman, and Deputy PM Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah. He held talks with Foreign Minister Dr. Abdulatif Al Zayani, covering regional developments and sectoral cooperation. **Trade Tops \$1.66 Billion** Bilateral trade reached US\$1.66 billion in 2025-26, up 1.57 per cent year-on-year. Two-way in-

vestment stands at around US\$2 billion. The first round of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement negotiations began in July 2026. Bahrain's e-Visa facility, now in its second year, has issued 4,651 visas across 14 categories. The Indian Consular Centre at Bahrain Mall processed over 39,000 applications since August 2025, including passport renewals, attestations and OCI cards. Tatkal passport services resumed in April 2026. India assumed command of Combined Task Force 154 in February 2026 — a first for the Indian Navy — delivering over 2,200 hours of maritime training across 25 partner nations. **UNSC Bid Launched** India has launched its campaign for a UN Security Council non-permanent seat for 2028-29, guided by the "SHANTI" framework emphasising Global South representation, multilateral reform and counter-terrorism.

24-Member Fraud Ring Busted Over Fake Loan Applications

Forged salary certificates and bank statements allegedly used to secure financing from electronic lender

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The Interior Ministry announced the dismantling of a fraud network involving 24 Asian nationals operating both inside and outside Bahrain, accused of using forged documents to obtain financing from an electronic finance company. According to the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security, the suspects submitted financing applications supported by falsified bank statements, salary certificates and forged company stamps. The documents contained fabricated financial information that falsely showed the applicants earning significantly higher salaries than they actually received, enabling them to fraudulently qualify for financial approvals. The Directorate of Economic Crime Investigation launched



an extensive investigation immediately after receiving the complaint. Through intelligence gathering and evidence collection, investigators identified those involved and arrested several suspects within Bahrain. Authorities said those arrested assisted in forging documents and facilitating the submission of fraudulent financing applications in exchange for payments received through bank transfers. Legal action has been taken against all those involved, and

the case has been referred to the Public Prosecution for further proceedings. The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security reaffirmed its commitment to combating economic crimes in all forms and warned that it would take strict action against fraud and document forgery that threaten Bahrain's financial and credit sectors. The directorate stressed that its efforts aim to enforce the law and protect the rights and interests of individuals and institutions alike.

Bahrain Ranks Fourth Safest in Arab World

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Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain has been ranked the fourth-safest Arab country and 11th worldwide in Numbeo's Mid-Year 2026 Safety Index, adding to its standing as one of the Gulf's most secure places to live, work and visit. The kingdom scored 77.7 out of 100 for safety, against a crime score of 22.3. Only the UAE, Qatar and Oman placed ahead of Bahrain among Arab countries. The result marks another rise for Bahrain, which stood 15th worldwide with 76.2 points in the Mid-Year 2025 table and 16th with 75.2 points a year earlier. It has climbed five places in two years while adding 2.5 points to its safety score. Bahrain also placed ahead of several countries long linked with low crime and public order, with its score close to those recorded by Japan and Singapore. Survey responses for Bahrain showed strong confidence



87/100	Confidence in walking alone during the day
76/100	Confidence in walking alone at night
Low to Very Low - Public concern over robbery, assault, car theft and home break-ins	
30%	Drop in crime over the past 25 years, according to the Interior Ministry
<3%	Drug-related offences as a share of total criminal cases

in personal safety. The country scored about 87 points for walking alone during the day and roughly 76 points at night, while fears over robbery, car theft, assault and break-ins were rated low or very low. The findings sit alongside Interior Ministry figures pointing to a long-term fall in crime. Police have said

crime levels dropped by 30 pc over the past 25 years, while drug-related cases accounted for less than 3 pc of criminal cases. The results measure public perceptions rather than police records, but Bahrain's climb across successive editions shows growing confidence in security across the kingdom.

Fake Certificates Lead to Criminal Charges and Dismissal

Rehab Mohammad
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Lawyer Manal Dhahi warned that submitting or using a forged academic certificate to obtain employment or career-related benefits is a criminal offence under Bahraini law and constitutes legal grounds for an employer to terminate an employee's contract immediately without notice or compensation. Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Dhahi said Bahrain's legislators have placed significant emphasis on safeguarding the integrity of

the labour market by combating fraud and deception, particularly the use of fake academic qualifications. She noted that such practices not only harm employers but also undermine the rights of genuinely qualified individuals and erode confidence in academic credentials. Dhahi explained that Article 271 of Bahrain's Penal Code stipulates that forgery of an official document is punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years. Forgery of private documents is also a criminal offence carrying a prison sentence, while anyone



who knowingly uses a forged document is equally liable under the law. She added that Bahrain's Labour Law for the Private Sector

"Forged academic certificates undermine trust, deprive qualified professionals of opportunities, and expose offenders to imprisonment as well as termination of employment."
— LAWYER MANAL DHAHI

also provides legal protection to employers. Under Article 107, an employer may terminate an employee's contract without notice or compensation if the employ-

ee assumes a false identity or submits forged certificates or recommendations. According to Dhahi, the combined provisions of the Penal Code and Labour Law make it clear that presenting a forged academic certificate may result not only in immediate dismissal but also in criminal prosecution and the penalties prescribed by law. This, she said, reflects Bahrain's commitment to preserving the integrity of the workplace and upholding the principles of merit and fairness. She further stressed that the

relevant authorities in Bahrain continue to verify the authenticity of academic qualifications and pursue legal action against anyone found to have submitted or used forged certificates. She added that ensuring the credibility of academic credentials is a shared responsibility between the competent authorities and employers, helping protect institutions, safeguard the rights of qualified professionals, and ensure that genuine educational qualifications remain the foundation for employment in the Kingdom.