

‘Diplomacy Boosts Economy’



MP Dr Maryam Al-Dhaen  
**Mahir Haneef**  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s expanding diplomatic efforts are driving tangible economic and strategic outcomes, according to MP Dr Maryam Al-Dhaen.

She credited recent high-level visits by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Italy and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the United States, as key moves that reinforce Bahrain’s foreign policy vision rooted in balanced engagement and long-term cooperation.

Economic framing

Dr Al-Dhaen said such outreach is not only deepening historical ties with partners like Italy and the US, but also paving the way for major economic partnerships. She noted that Bahrain’s diplomatic presence strengthens its position as a reliable and forward-looking partner in the global arena.

UN seat endorsement

The MP also pointed to Italy’s praise for Bahrain’s election to the United Nations Security Council for 2026-2027 as renewed international recognition of the Kingdom’s growing role. She expressed pride in how the leadership’s approach to diplomacy is aligned with values of tolerance, stability, and prosperity.

Al-Dhaen framed the upcoming September visit to Rome as a strategic next step in consolidating bilateral growth and further economic agreements.

Tamkeen Cracks Down Hard

Inspectors uncover multiple violations

- 6,200 checks conducted
- 25 breaches identified
- Sanctions and recovery underway

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Tamkeen has launched a firm crackdown on abuse of its financial support programmes, revealing 25 violations following 6,200 inspections conducted in the first half of the year. The Labour Fund is stepping up its oversight to ensure public funds reach only those who qualify.

Widening net

The inspections covered enterprises benefiting from Tamkeen’s employment, career development, and enterprise



Under Bahraini law, any misuse of government-provided financial support may result in fund recovery, disqualification from future support, or legal prosecution under criminal codes governing fraud and labour violations.

support programmes. Violations ranged from failure to comply with programme terms to suspected wage manipulation and illegal employment. Serious cases were referred to legal authorities for further action.

Tamkeen warned that enter-



Tamkeen steps up inspections to make sure public funds are given only to eligible recipients

prises found guilty could face recovery of misused funds, temporary suspension from future support, or both. It also retains the right to impose administrative sanctions once official decisions are issued by the authorities.

Level playing field

Tamkeen confirmed that it is actively upgrading its internal monitoring systems to reinforce compliance and close regulatory loopholes. The crackdown also aims to protect legitimate bene-

ficiaries by maintaining fairness and deterring abuse.

“These actions are not just about penalties, they’re about integrity,” Tamkeen noted in its statement. “Support must reach those who genuinely qualify.”

Public role critical

The Labour Fund credited whistleblowers and partner institutions for playing a key role in surfacing violations. It called on beneficiaries and the wider public to remain vigilant, encouraging the use of its dedicated reporting channels to flag any suspected misuse.

Tamkeen reaffirmed its call for full cooperation during inspections, and urged all recipients of support to provide accurate records and documentation.

The agency said it remains committed to strengthening the impact of its support programmes while defending public funds from misuse. Reports can be submitted via [www.tamkeen.bh/whistleblowing-form](http://www.tamkeen.bh/whistleblowing-form) or by calling 17383383.

Bahrain, Hong Kong Forge Links

- Delegation explores strategic ties
- Bahrain offers regional access
- Hong Kong eyes Gulf growth

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Bahrain and Hong Kong are setting the stage for a new phase of cross-regional cooperation, as the Bahrain Chamber welcomed a high-level trade delegation from the East Asian powerhouse. The meeting underscored ambitions on both sides to build a stronger commercial bridge connecting the Gulf with Asia’s booming economies.



Atef Al Khaja, CEO of the Bahrain Chamber, receives Simon Chan, Director General of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Dubai, and the trade delegation from Hong Kong

The visit was hosted by Atef Al Khaja, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Chamber, who described the session as more than a courtesy call. “It’s a chance to deepen a relationship anchored in shared values like openness, free enterprise, and innovation,” he said. He also reaffirmed the Chamber’s commitment to supporting partnerships that align with Bahrain’s

long-term development strategy. Sectoral committee members from the Chamber joined the dialogue, presenting Bahrain’s offerings in health, logistics, digital economy, industry, tourism, and exports. Their participation signalled Bahrain’s readiness to convert policy dialogue into actionable trade outcomes.

Representing the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in

Dubai, Director General Simon Chan spotlighted his city’s strategic value for Bahraini investors. He delivered a focused presentation on Hong Kong’s business environment and ongoing initiatives to draw Gulf investment into Asia.

Chan said the Dubai office was committed to helping Bahraini companies tap into East Asian supply chains through

Hong Kong’s well-established financial, legal, and logistical networks. He added that the city’s competitive advantages were designed to complement regional growth ambitions in the Gulf.

The gathering marked a deliberate step in positioning Bahrain as a regional base for outward investment and trade, and Hong Kong as a proven platform to access Asian markets. Both sides acknowledged the importance of converting diplomatic ties into direct business collaborations that generate value across sectors.

As global trade patterns shift and economies recalibrate toward multi-polar supply routes, Bahrain and Hong Kong appear keen to define their own niche in this evolving map. The Chamber said it would follow up with sector-specific initiatives to maintain momentum and explore concrete opportunities.

Gulf Air to Acquire 18 Boeing 787 Dreamliners

- 18 Dreamliners confirmed
  - GE engines included
  - Deal signed in Washington
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As part of Bahrain’s deepening commercial partnership with the United States, Gulf Air has finalised an agreement to purchase 18 Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft and 36 GE Aerospace engines, with the deal signed during the official visit of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to Washington.



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick witness the signing of an agreement by Khalid Hussain Taqi, Chairman of Gulf Air Group, and Stephanie Pope, President and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes

The order forms a key outcome of the investment-focused engagements led by HRH and

was advanced by His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and



His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy and Chairman of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, advances Bahrain’s economic diplomacy during a high-level meeting with U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance at the White House.

National Economy and Chairman of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company.

The agreement was signed by Khalid Hussain Taqi, Chairman of Gulf Air Group, and Steph-

anie Pope, President and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, in the presence of H.E. Shaikh Salman and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick.

As Chairman of the Kingdom’s sovereign wealth fund, H.E. Shaikh Salman has played a central role in translating Bahrain’s long-term vision into high-impact investments.

His Excellency noted that the aircraft order aligns with the economic directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and reflects the maturity of Bahrain–U.S. ties.

The deal expands Gulf Air’s long-haul capabilities and supports its upcoming return to the North American market with direct flights to New York starting this October.