

Maharaj spins South Africa victory

Markram's 82 and Maharaj's 5-33 lead South Africa to dominant series-opening win against Australia | **P16**

Russia says peace deal must ensure its 'security'

Selena Gomez: Wizards of Waverly Place changed my life

Google agrees to US\$36m fine over Android search deals

Historic Crackdown

Sweeping decrees toughen traffic and justice laws, building on HRH CP's push for safer roads

● His Majesty's decrees seal tough penalties

● HRH Crown Prince's initiative sparks reforms

● Zero tolerance enforced

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has ordered sweeping new penalties and legal reforms in Bahrain, marking one of the most significant crackdowns on reckless driving and negligence in recent years.

HM the King's orders came after recent government-level directives by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, who had instructed on May 31st this year that stronger penalties be drafted for reckless driving and fatal accidents. The royal decrees now bring finality to the action initiated earlier by HRH the Crown Prince, imposing stiffer punishments and streamlining justice procedures to protect lives and property.

Decree-Law (30) of 2025 issued by His Majesty on Tuesday amends the Traffic Law to impose punishments ranging from imprisonment to licence



HM the King

suspension and vehicle confiscation.

The harshest provisions apply to drivers whose negligence results in fatalities, with penalties of two to ten years' imprisonment and fines between BD2,000 and BD10,000, rising further where intoxication, professional negligence, multiple casualties, or permanent disability are involved.

The decree also targets driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, with penalties that include imprisonment, licence suspension, and vehicle confiscation. Reckless or unsafe driving, such as running red lights or overtaking dangerously, now carries jail terms, heavy fines, or licence withdrawal, with punishments increasing sharply if injury or damage results.

Exceeding speed limits and failing to slow in populated areas or near schools, hospitals, mosques, or pedestrian crossings

Know the Penalties

Negligence causing death: 2 to 10 years' imprisonment, BD2,000–BD10,000 fine, harsher if intoxicated, professionally negligent, or multiple deaths.

Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs: imprisonment, licence suspension, possible vehicle confiscation.

Reckless or unsafe driving / running red lights: imprisonment, heavy fines, licence suspension, or confiscation of vehicles; tougher if injury or damage occurs.

Exceeding speed limits: fines, jail terms, licence suspension, escalating for repeat offences or accidents.

Improper overtaking: imprisonment or fines, stiffer penalties if repeated or

resulting in harm.

Failure to slow near schools, hospitals, mosques, or pedestrian crossings: fines, licence suspension, escalating if injury or damage occurs.

Displaying prohibited signs or advertisements on vehicles: fines and potential licence suspension.



HRH Prince Salman

the government's zero-tolerance approach.

Decree-Law (31) of 2025, which was also issued by His Majesty on Tuesday, reinforces the crackdown by revising Articles 342 and 343 of the Penal Code. Acts of negligence causing death now attract long prison terms and heavy fines, while negligent acts resulting in bodily harm are also penalised. The provisions apply more severe consequences where aggravating factors exist, such as intoxication, occupational negligence, or the failure to assist

a victim when possible. Cases brought under these articles will be heard by the High Criminal Court, with appeals before the Higher Criminal Court of Appeal.



Gulf funds keep Bahrain FDI above BD17bln

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Foreign direct investment stocks in Bahrain reached BD17.068 billion in the first quarter of 2025, a shade lower than the BD17.101 billion recorded in the same period a year earlier, according to newly released data.

The total is equal to around \$45.3 billion.

Gulf states remain the largest source of investment, with BD12.05 billion channelled into Bahrain during the quarter.

Asian countries came next with BD1.78 billion, followed by other Arab countries at BD1.38 billion and the Americas at BD969 million.

VAT evasion case for businessman

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A businessman will stand trial at the First High Criminal Court accused of evading value-added tax amounting to BD65,000.

The National Bureau for Revenue lodged the complaint, saying the company owner had registered for VAT, collected the tax from customers and filed returns, but failed to pass on the money.

Monitoring work by the bureau confirmed the company had withheld the payments in breach of the law.

The Public Prosecution opened an inquiry and issued a travel ban while the case was examined.

Royal Reforms

HM King's Reforms Boost Energy, Disability, Transport

His Majesty's decrees expand energy, disability services and GCC transport

● Gas production deal sealed

● Disability committee restructured

● GCC land law ratified

Mahir Haneef
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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has issued a set of royal decrees that broaden Bahrain's economic, social, and regional partnerships, underscoring a forward-looking national agenda.

Energy partnership sealed

Decree-Law (33) of 2025 approves the Production Sharing Agreement for the Jaubah and Pre-Tawil gas assets in the

Bahrain Field. The agreement, signed on August 6 between the Government of Bahrain, BAPCO Energies, and EOG Resources, marks a major step in boosting domestic output and energy security.

Disability governance revamped

Decree-Law (34) of 2025 restructures oversight of disability care, rehabilitation, and

At a Glance

Gas Production Deal

Decree-Law (33) approves the Production Sharing Agreement for Jaubah and Pre-Tawil gas assets, signed with BAPCO Energies and EOG Resources.

Disability Committee Revamp

Decree-Law (34) creates a Cabinet-appointed Committee under the Ministry of Social Development to oversee rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities.

GCC Transport Law

Decree-Law (35) ratifies the Unified GCC Law on International Land Transport, fixing 1 dinar = 10 Saudi riyals for implementation and setting complaint procedures.

Regional integration

Decree-Law (35) of 2025 ratifies the Unified GCC Law on International Land Transport. It designates a competent national authority, sets Bahrain's exchange rate at one dinar = ten Saudi riyals for application purposes, and defines procedures for handling complaints and appeals.

Together, the decrees highlight Bahrain's twin drive for



Bahrain is among the first GCC states to ratify the Unified Land Transport, aimed at harmonising cross-border freight and passenger movement across the region.

economic diversification and stronger regional partnerships, while also advancing inclusion and social development at home.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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