

## Strengthening Bahrain and Oman economic cooperation

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Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) Chairman Ridha bin Juma Al Saleh has affirmed the depth and strength of the Bahraini-Omani economic, trade, investment and social relations.

Al Saleh was speaking while visiting yesterday the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), leading an Omani economic delegation, along with the Bahraini Ambassador to Oman, Dr Jumaa Al Kaabi, to be informed about the kingdom's experience in the fields of business incubators, and the facilities provided for start-ups, entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises.

The OCCI head stressed the importance of holding bilateral meetings in consolidating joint economic and investment action across various fields, especially regarding the provision of the GCC market with the necessary food commodities and agricultural products.

He indicated that the two countries are seeking to create a strategic partnership through increasing the volume of trade exchange, by investing in the distinctive opportunities in the Omani market related to food security in cooperation with Bahrain's BCCI, noting that in Oman, the investment atmosphere and laws grant foreign investors 100% ownership of the companies, in addition to Oman's strategic location as a commercial centre.

Al Saleh highlighted the importance of exchanging delegations and visits at all levels.

## HM King commends solid Bahrain-UAE relations

● Mutual keenness to exchange parliamentary and democratic expertise highlighted

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa hailed deep-rooted historical and fraternal relations binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE, stressing mutual keenness on further expanding joint ties, exchanging parliamentary and democratic expertise and coordinating stances regarding common issues.



HM the King with Speaker Ghubash

This came as HM the King yesterday received UAE Federal National Council (FNC) Speaker Saqr Ghubash at Sakhir Palace. His Majesty commended the

role of the councils in both countries and their contributions to strengthening Bahrain-UAE relations on official and unofficial levels and supporting develop-

ment efforts.

HM King Hamad also extended greetings to the UAE leaders, wishing the brotherly people of the United Arab Emirates fur-

ther progress and prosperity.

Speaker Ghubash conveyed to HM the King greetings from UAE President HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Prime Minister and Dubai Ruler HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and UAE Deputy Supreme Commander HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, wishing Bahrain and its people further progress and prosperity.

The FNC Speaker expressed deepest thanks and gratitude to HM the King, hailing his keenness on further strengthening fraternal and historical relations across all fields and bolstering parliamentary cooperation.

## Working together for common goals

Finance Minister hails GCC achievements to enhance regional cooperation

● Bahrain and UAE keen to strengthen ties for growth and prosperity

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Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa praised the achievements of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and its efforts to enhance cooperation between its member states.

He was speaking during a meeting yesterday with GCC Secretary General Dr Nayef Falah Al Hajraf.

Minister Shaikh Salman welcomed Dr Al Hajraf, commending his tireless efforts to promote the GCC march and boost cooperation to attain the desired



Minister Shaikh Salman with Dr Al Hajraf, left, and Ambassador Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan

goals. Both sides also discussed issues of common interest and ways of enhancing joint cooperation in various fields.

Dr Al Hajraf expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the minister for the kingdom's continuous efforts to boost GCC integration.

Also yesterday, Shaikh Salman received UAE Ambassador to Bahrain Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The minister emphasised the deep-rooted historical ties between Bahrain and the UAE, stressing the importance of further developing economic cooperation for the benefit of the

two countries and their peoples.

Shaikh Salman noted the advanced level of relations reached by fruitful bilateral cooperation and joint coordination in all fields, which reflects the keenness and interest of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and UAE President His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed

Al Nahyan.

Ambassador Shaikh Sultan bin Hamdan expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to Minister Shaikh Salman, expressing the aspiration of the UAE to continue strengthening joint cooperation to achieve growth and prosperity for both countries.

## House of Representatives elects chairmen for five key committees



MP Al Salloum

MP Al Sawad

MP Al Ansari

MP Buanq

MP El Sisi

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Five MPs were elected chairmen of key committees at the House of Representatives during an election held yesterday marking the end of the fifth legislative term's third session.

They were Ahmed Al Ansari, Mohammed El Sisi, Ahmed Al Salloum, Fadel Al Sawad and Khalid Buanq.

MP Al Ansari won the chairmanship of House of Representatives Services Committee, while MP Ammar Al Abbas became Vice Chairman.

The committee consists of members of each of the representatives, namely Ibrahim Al Nafi'i, Sawsan Kamal, Mamdooh Al Saleh, Ammar Qambar and Abdel Rahim.

El Sisi won the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs, Defense

and National Security Committee.

Deputy Issa Al Dosari won the position of Vice Chairman.

The committee consists of members of each of the deputies, namely Bader Al Dosari, Ghazi Al Rahma, Abdullah Al Thawadi, Ammar Al Bannai and Youssef Al Thawadi.

Al Salloum won the chairmanship of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee.

Al Salloum won by lottery after he and MP Mahmoud Al Bahrani got four votes each.

MP Ahmed Al Amer won the position of Vice Chairman.

The committee consists of members of each of the deputies, namely Zainab Abdul Amir, Kaltham Al Hayiki, Abdullah Al-Dosari, Mahmoud Al Bahrani, Ali Ishaqi and Issa Al Kooheji.

Al Sawad won the presidency of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee.

MP Muhammad Al Absi won the position of Vice Chairman.

The committee consists of members of each of the representatives, namely Sayed Falah Hisham, Ali Al Nuaimi, Hisham Al Ashery, Issa Al Qadi and Youssef Zainal.

Buanq won the chairmanship of the Public Utilities Committee.

Buanq got four votes beating Hamad Al Kooheji who had three.

MP Ahmed Al Dimistani won the position of Vice Chairman.

The committee consists of members of each of the deputies, namely Muhammad Buhamoud, Hamad Al Kooheji, Adel Al Asoumi, Abdul Razzaq Al Hattab and Fatima Al Qatari.

## EWA outlines plans and projects

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Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak yesterday highlighted its future plans and projects, as well as its recent achievements and their impacts on the services delivered to the citizens and residents.

This came as Al Mubarak received the representative of the Capital Governorate's third constituency at the Council of

Representatives, MP Mamdooh Abbas Al Saleh, and discussed with him topics related to the water and electricity sectors.

They discussed ways to enhance cooperation between EWA and the Council of Representatives, through supporting EWA's plans aimed at constantly improving its services.

The minister lauded the dedicated efforts exerted by lawmakers to raise and discuss issues that are related to the

citizens' interests.

They also discussed the executive-legislature cooperation in achieving the aspirations of the citizens and upgrading the quality and efficiency of the services delivered to them, based on the directives of the government to strengthen cooperation between the two branches.

The lawmaker reviewed the service needs of his constituency, praising the minister's efforts in delivering them.

## Foreign Minister receives UN Development Coordination Office Regional Director



Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani received in his office at the ministry yesterday, the United Nations Development Coordination Office Regional Director Laila Baker, on her official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain. During the meeting, the two sides discussed joint cooperation between Bahrain and the UN and means to boost bilateral cooperation and coordination between the Ministry and the UN in various development fields to achieve common goals. They also reviewed a number of issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by the Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Chief of Human Rights Affairs, Ambassador Dr Arwa Al Sayed, and the Acting Chief of Organisations, Ambassador Shaikha Aysa Ahmed Saqer Al Khalifa.