

Stability Rooted in the Rule of Law

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, the Speaker of the Shura Council emphasised that Bahrain's current national approach strongly focuses on governance, legal responsibility, and preserving state stability through clear principles of citizenship and accountability.

He said His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's vision reflects a structured national framework that strengthens the rule of law and reinforces citizenship responsibilities as a foundation for social and institutional stability.

Al Saleh noted that recent royal directives underline the importance of legal measures in safeguarding national security and ensuring that citizenship remains tied to clear eligibility criteria, accountability, and loyalty to the nation.

He also highlighted the Government's role, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, in maintaining the continuity of public services and efficiently managing national affairs during sensitive regional conditions.

The Speaker stated that Bahrain's institutional strength lies in its coordinated governance approach, where leadership directives translate into effective executive action that supports stability and public confidence.

Pension and Industry Laws Under Review

The Shura Council has progressed key legislative and economic initiatives aimed at strengthening social equity, boosting national industry, and enhancing Bahrain's investment environment.



Citizens play a pivotal role in supporting state institutions and safeguarding internal stability

H.E. ALI BIN SALEH AL SALEH, SPEAKER OF THE SHURA COUNCIL



Shura Council in session



Members during the Service and Finance Committee meeting



In its Services Committee, members reviewed a draft amendment to the social insurance law seeking greater parity between public and private sector retirees.

The proposal would allow retirees to access substitution loans every two years from the date of the previous loan, rather than waiting until the final installment is completed, aiming to improve financial flexibility and fairness.

Officials from the General Organization for Social Insurance affirmed cooperation with lawmakers, stressing the need to balance reform with financial sustainability and risk management.

Local Products Prioritized in Tenders

Separately, the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee approved the legal validity of an

amendment to strengthen national industries. The proposal includes forming a dedicated committee to oversee industrial development and introducing a national product list to prioritize Bahraini goods in government procurement, alongside clearer local content requirements in public tenders.

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee also praised efforts to expand international cooperation and attract invest-

ment, highlighting Bahrain's participation in IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings and the recent investment protection agreement with Switzerland, seen as a boost to investor confidence.

The committee continued its review of the state's 2024 consolidated accounts and unemployment insurance financial reports, underscoring ongoing efforts to ensure transparency and fiscal discipline.

National Paths Program Strengthens

The Bahrain Institute for Political Development has concluded the first cohort of its "National Paths" program, designed for general employees from both the public and private sectors, held from April 12 to 16, 2026.

The program is part of ongoing efforts to strengthen national participation and enhance the efficiency of human resources across various sectors.

The training featured a comprehensive set of workshops and courses focusing on the leadership's vision for holistic development and its impact on national and institutional work.

It also aimed to build participants' professional skills and deepen their understanding of government priorities, policies, and current legislation.

Challenges

Sessions also addressed ways to engage positively with national developments and adapt to regional and international challenges, contributing to the preparation of qualified national cadres with stronger cultural and intellectual awareness.

The program included specialized training sessions delivered by experts and practitioners.

Certified trainer Ashwaq BuAli conducted a course on "Building National Competencies," while Sheikh Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Al Khalifa, former Director of the University of Bahrain's Historical Studies Center, led a workshop titled "The Great Year of Isa and its National Impact."

Gold Demand Turns Investment

22K gold in Bahrain rises to BD 54-55 from around BD 51

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

This year's Akshaya Tritiya, a festival associated with gold purchases within the Indian community, came amid fluctuating gold prices.

Gold has continued its upward momentum in recent days, following a period of mild fluctuations driven by shifting global cues and regional developments.

In Bahrain, 22K gold prices have risen from around BD 51 to the BD 54-55 range, reflecting broader strength across the precious metals market.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune on the occasion and in reference to recent gold price fluctuations, Shamlal Ahamed, MD - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, said: "Gold prices have fluctuated in recent days due to global factors such as



Gold remains a reliable long-term investment despite short-term price swings

SHAMLAL AHAMED, MD, INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS, MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

economic uncertainty, inflation concerns, and strong safe-haven demand. Despite short-term movements, the long-term outlook remains steady, with gold



Bahrain's gold market was relatively subdued this Akshaya Tritiya

MUHAMED HUSSAIN MUALIM, MD, AL SARRAJ JEWELLERS

continuing to be seen as a reliable store of value and a preferred long-term investment."

Regarding Akshaya Tritiya, Shamlal noted that gold sales in



Despite supply issues, we continue to see steady visits from loyal customers

RIYAZ, A STAFF MEMBER AT A LOCAL JEWELLERY SHOP

Malabar were encouraging, with a strong customer response.

"Demand remained resilient, supported by the festival's cultural significance and growing

awareness of gold's long-term value as both jewellery and an investment," he added.

Meanwhile, Riyaz from Adel Khalef Jewellery's, which caters to the local market, told TDT that despite a few supply issues last month, the store has continued to see regular visits from its loyal customers, reflecting steady support from long-time buyers.

However, reflecting on a broader gold buyer response, Muhamed Hussain Mualim, Managing Director of Al Sarraj Jewellers and advisor to the Jewellers Association, said market sentiment remains cautious on spending amid current business conditions, with gold prices fluctuating due to regional tensions and oil price movements.

Investor shifts between gold and oil-linked assets have added to short-term volatility, though prices have recently started stabilizing closer to earlier levels.

"Compared to previous years, Bahrain's gold market remained relatively subdued on Akshaya Tritiya, reflecting cautious consumer sentiment."

He added that once geopolitical and oil market conditions stabilise, investor confidence is expected to return to gold, which could support another upward movement in prices.

According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association, demand remained weaker across most regions, with only select pockets in the south showing resilience.

Experts say buying patterns are gradually changing, with gold increasingly seen as an investment asset rather than only a festival-driven purchase. Data from the World Gold Council reflects this shift, showing a 24% year-on-year drop in jewellery demand in 2025, while investment demand rose 17% to its highest level since 2013.