

# Travel expansion

**iGA addresses recent global cloud outage**

● **Bahrain systems safe**

**TDT | Manama**

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) issued a statement addressing the recent global disruption affecting cloud infrastructure and internet services worldwide, confirming that a few government systems, websites, and applications in Bahrain are experiencing temporary technical issues as a result.

The iGA is working diligently to resolve the matter and restore full access to government entities and the public.

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) has taken prompt action to trace the cause and gradually restore systems that may have faced some issues.

The iGA thanks the public for their patience and understanding as recovery efforts continue.

For any inquiries or feedback, please call the Government Services Contact Centre at 80008001 or the National Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul) bahrain.bh/Tawasul or the Tawasul app.

**BTEA successfully concludes promotional roadshow in China**

**TDT | Manama**

The Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) successfully concluded a promotional roadshow in the People's Republic of China, with stops in Shanghai and Guangzhou.

The initiative brought together leading travel agents and key stakeholders from Bahrain's tourism sector to showcase the Kingdom's diverse offerings and strengthen partnerships with major Chinese companies specializing in destination management and tour operations.

## Strategy

The roadshow aligns with Bahrain's Tourism Strategy 2022-2026, which aims to expand international partnerships and strengthen the Kingdom's presence in the Chinese market, one of its main targets, by fostering new cooperation and developing programs tailored to Chinese travelers.

Over four days, the BTEA held more than 140 meetings with leading travel and tourism com-



Bahrain promotes unique tourism attractions to Chinese audiences



panies and tour operators, including Ctrip (Trip.com Group), Tuniu Travel, Shanghai Airlines Holidays, Guangzhou China Travel Service, and CYTS Tours Holding, alongside travel media representatives, influencers, airlines, and luxury tour operators.

The Bahraini delegation delivered presentations highlighting the Kingdom's unique mix of authenticity and modernity, its diverse cultural, leisure, sports, and business tourism experiences, and its latest projects and advanced infrastructure.



## Cooperation

The meetings also explored future opportunities for tourism cooperation and knowledge exchange in marketing and promotion, and discussed ways to leverage the new direct Gulf Air flights between

Bahrain and both Shanghai and Guangzhou.

The roadshow concluded with a showcase event featuring artistic performances and video presentations celebrating Bahrain's rich cultural heritage and diverse tourism offerings.

# Balance-of-payments surplus stands at BD858m in 2024

● **Current account forecast at 6.5pct of GDP**

**Mohammed Darwish**  
**TDT | Manama**

BD858 million was Bahrain's 2024 balance-of-payments surplus, equal to 5.3 per cent of

GDP, with the current account forecast to reach about 6.5 per cent by year-end.

The rise was linked to stronger non-oil export takings and the growing weight of financial services and logistics.

Workers' remittances stayed firm. Foreign direct investment was steady.

**A lasting surplus gives room to fund development projects without drawing on foreign reserves or leaning on heavy borrowing, which helps credit standing and can draw long-term investors.**

## Banking assets

GDP for 2024 was about \$471 billion. Non-oil output rose 3.8 per cent. Broad money (M3) was

up 5.2 per cent. Total banking assets stood near \$244.7 billion by April 2025.

The current account, the main part of the balance of payments,

tracks trade, investment and remittances between Bahrain and the rest of the world.

It has been used to steady the dinar and to ease pressure on foreign-exchange reserves.

## Projects

A lasting surplus gives room to fund development projects without drawing on foreign reserves

or leaning on heavy borrowing, which helps credit standing and can draw long-term investors.

Keeping the line will rest on further growth in non-oil sectors, tighter production chains at home and a wider export base.

Lower non-essential imports and higher value added in local goods would also help the current account over time.

# Bahrain backs connectivity across GCC

● **Collaboration in transport, communications**

**Kuwait**

Bahrain supports all efforts to strengthen GCC integration in the transport and communications sectors.

This was emphasised by His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, noting that such efforts contribute to economic growth, facilitate trade, and enhance the movement of individuals in line with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the GCC's vision for deeper connectivity and integration among member states.

## Participation

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla was speaking as he participated in the 27th meeting of the GCC Ministerial Committee for Transport and Communications, held in the State of Kuwait.

Present were the Ministers of Transport and Communications of the GCC countries



“Bahrain remains committed to adopting initiatives and projects that enhance GCC connectivity and develop transport infrastructure, reinforcing its position as a regional logistics hub and gateway for international trade.”

- H.E. DR. SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

and the attendance of Jasem Mohammed Al Budaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

## Cooperation

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla also emphasised the importance of continued coordination and cooperation among GCC countries to achieve integration in the transport and communications sector, stressing that Bahrain remains committed to adopting initiatives and projects that enhance GCC connectivity and develop transport infrastructure, reinforcing its position as a regional logistics hub and gateway for international trade.

## Focus

The meeting discussed enhancing the transport system among GCC countries, including road and maritime connectivity projects, the development of unified regulations for international land transport, and updates on the implementation of the GCC railway project.

The discussions also covered means to strengthen logistical integration and develop infrastructure that supports sustainable transport, contributing to economic growth and boosting trade activity.

## Fight against corruption



The Deputy Interior Minister, Lt-General Adel bin Khalifa Al Fadhel, headed Bahrain's delegation to the 11th Meeting of the GCC Ministerial Committee on Combating Corruption, held in Kuwait, with the participation of senior officials responsible for integrity protection and anti-corruption agencies in GCC countries. The Deputy Interior Minister commended the collective GCC efforts to enhance cooperation and unify positions in integrity protection and anti-corruption. He affirmed that the ministerial committee serves as a key pillar supporting joint GCC action to safeguard national resources and reinforce the principles of transparency and integrity, in line with the directives of Their Majesties and Highnesses, the leaders of the GCC countries.

# Parliamentarians attend IPU session

**TDT | Geneva**

The Kingdom of Bahrain's parliamentary division participated in the closing of the 216th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Governing Council, held in Geneva.

The Governing Council reviewed reports from permanent and specialised committees.

These addressed key topics including gender equality, women's empowerment, youth support, enhancing democracy and human rights, and issues

related to environmental challenges and climate change.

The session also discussed joint initiatives and projects between the IPU and national parliaments in the domains of development and sustainable peace.