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KPMG delivers 5.1% rise in global revenue

Focus on tourism, aviation and transportation



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, chairs the 517th Government Executive Committee meeting. The meeting reviewed developments on the implementation of the 2022-2026 tourism sector strategy, topics related to the aviation sector, and the regulation of the transportation sector.

HM King thanked by Azerbaijan

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a letter of thanks from Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, in which he expressed his gratitude for the letter sent by HM the King on the occasion of Azerbaijan's participation at the Bahrain International Exhibition “Mara’ee 2025”.

In the letter, President Aliyev thanked HM King Hamad for the high appreciation accorded to the Azerbaijani participants.

He noted that “Mara’ee 2025” was a distinguished event reflecting the Kingdom’s deep-rooted traditions, national values, rich history, culture, and contemporary vision.

Kingdom wins digital award

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The Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA) achieved a digital milestone in the Arab World by winning in the ‘Excellence in Digital Transformation’ category at the 25th Sheikh Salem Al Ali Al Sabah Informatics Award.

The Award’s Board of Trustees announced five winners: two from Kuwait, and three at the Arab level for the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, recognised as leading Arab nations and classified in the ‘Very High’ category of the United Nations E-Government Development Index 2024.

Bilateral tech

HRH Prince Salman: Bahrain-Saudi partnership continues to go from ‘strength to strength’

TDT | Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has affirmed Bahrain’s commitment to leveraging modern technologies to enhance the competitiveness of the communications and information technology sector.

Speaking during a meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Khaled bin Al-Abdullah Al-Faisal, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Saudi Telecom Company (stc), at Gudaibiya Palace, HRH Prince Salman underscored the strong Bahrain-Saudi partnership in this vital sector and the shared determination to develop it further.

“Bahrain is committed to strengthening its competitiveness and fostering an attractive environment for technology and innovation,” he said, highlighting the Kingdom’s strategic vision for the communications



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with the Chairman of the Board of Directors of stc



and IT sector.

“Modern technologies play a pivotal role in supporting development efforts and advancing

economic growth.”

Emphasising regional collaboration, HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister stated: “The

Bahrain-Saudi partnership continues to go from strength to strength, reflecting our shared commitment to achieve mutual aspirations.”

The meeting also highlighted the depth of historical relations between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, with HRH Prince Salman noting the continued support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud in advancing bilateral ties.

The discussion focused on co-operation across multiple fields, particularly under agreements facilitated by the Bahraini-Saudi Coordination Council, demon-

strating a framework for sustained collaboration between the two countries.

Appreciation

HRH Prince Mohammed bin Khaled expressed appreciation for HRH Prince Salman’s commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation, particularly in the communications and technology sectors, and wished Bahrain continued progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, along with several senior officials.

Urgent flood solution

MPs approve dedicated ‘rain emergencies’ budget proposal

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Waterlogged streets could see faster pump-outs after Parliament backed an urgent plan for a dedicated yearly ‘rain emergencies’ budget, designed to pay contractors straight away.

The Council of Representatives approved the urgent proposal during yesterday’s sitting.

Put forward by MP Hassan Ibrahim and four other MPs, it also calls for an approved register of water-suction tankers and operators, checked in advance for technical readiness

and safety.

Ibrahim grounded the request in constitutional duties on the state during public hardship, citing Article 5’s wording that the state “guarantees the necessary social security for citizens”, and Article 12’s provision that “the State guarantees society’s solidarity in bearing the burdens arising from disasters and public hardships”.

He said agencies already prepare ahead of the rainy season through operational plans, equipment readiness and coordination between bodies.

The lawmaker, however, ar-



MP Hassan Ibrahim

gued that pooling rainwater is dealt with as an emergency and

needs a dedicated pot of money that can be released without the usual financial steps slowing payments.

Under the current set-up, he said, contractors are often tied to other yearly operating contracts, which can limit their ability in some cases to supply the agreed number of suction tankers on time, especially when the need arises in more than one location at once.

That can leave standing water in streets and residential areas longer than needed, affecting access in and out of homes, disrupting traffic, and raising

concerns over public safety and damage to infrastructure, according to the proposal text.

The plan calls for an annual budget line to be activated when required and paid directly to contractors, alongside a pre-approved list of suction tankers owned by individuals or firms.

Those tankers would be registered only after technical inspection and safety checks, with prior coordination with owners and a clear, fixed service fee, under the supervision of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the Ministry of Works.

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