

Advancing Digital Infrastructure



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa chaired the 535th Government Executive Committee meeting, reviewing the latest developments in Bahrain's technology and telecommunications sector, as well as progress on the Kingdom's road network projects.

Gulf Bloc Marks 45 Years

Bahrain's Shura Council celebrates four decades of unity, strength, and shared ambition

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh marked the 45th anniversary of the Gulf Cooperation Council on Sunday, describing the bloc as "a unique model of cooperation and integration and a symbol of unity and solidarity among brotherly states."

Al Saleh credited the council's achievements to the wise leadership of GCC heads of state, noting that their directives have strengthened member countries' regional and international standing. He also praised GCC Secretary-General Jassem Mohamed Albudaiwi for his continued efforts to deepen joint Gulf action and advance citizens' aspirations across the region.

Gulf Security Is Indivisible

Shura Council Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee, chaired by Dr. Ali bin Mohammed Al Rumaihi, called



Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives



Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Shura Council Chairman

for stronger security and defence integration across GCC member states, describing it as a strategic priority given continued Iranian aggression.

The committee highlighted the GCC's four-decade record of protecting sovereign gains and reinforcing diplomatic coordination, while praising the readiness of armed forces and security agencies across all six member states.

On maritime security, the committee drew a firm line—declaring freedom of navigation

through the Strait of Hormuz a red line and warning that any disruption to vital waterways would threaten global trade stability.

Meanwhile, Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, affirmed that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has played a vital role in reinforcing security and stability in the region, safeguarding achievements and resources, and supporting comprehensive development efforts that benefit GCC states and their peoples.



Shura Council Foreign Affairs Committee

A Road With Purpose

New Riffa avenue honours national legacy while strengthening Bahrain's urban infrastructure

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Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Deputy Prime Minister, inaugurated Shaikh Abdullah bin Salman bin Khalid Al Khalifa Avenue in Riffa, a new road linking Hunainiyah Avenue and Al Muaskar Highway.

The avenue is part of Bahrain's ongoing drive to modernise its road network, keeping pace with rapid urban growth and aligning with the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The Deputy Prime Minister described infrastructure development as a strategic priority, saying the government views roads not merely as connections between places, but as active drivers of economic activity and urban expansion.

"These vital projects contribute to creating an integrated network that supports urban expansion and enhances the Kingdom's competitiveness by facilitating movement and ef-



fectively linking areas and facilities," Shaikh Khalid said.

A Name That Honours Legacy

Beyond its practical purpose, the naming of the avenue carries significant meaning. The Deputy Prime Minister said the decision reflects Bahrain's com-

mitment to honouring loyal national figures whose service left a lasting mark on the Kingdom.

He recalled the distinguished contributions of the late Shaikh Abdullah bin Salman bin Khalid Al Khalifa, who served in various national positions with dedication and distinction.

4,000 Homes By 2027



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Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amina bint Ahmed Al Romaihi on Sunday marked the start of construction on 24 new housing units in Salman City, laying the foundation stone for the latest project under Bahrain's land development rights programme.

The development is a joint venture between real estate developer Naseej and Almoayyed

Contracting Group, in cooperation with the ministry. Naseej CEO Amin Al Arrayed and Almoayyed Contracting Executive Director Hala Farooq Almoayyed attended the ceremony alongside the minister.

The minister said the project reflects Bahrain's sustained drive to expand its housing stock through innovative, on-schedule delivery. The Salman City development is part of a wider programme rolling out seven housing projects to

deliver more than 4,000 units between 2024 and 2027—alongside completed and ongoing developments including the Suhail project in Al Lawzi, Hay Al Naseem, Al Wadi units in Al Bu-hair, and Danat Hoorat Sanad.

"Partnerships with the private sector have been instrumental in accelerating delivery," the minister said, highlighting the role of national developers in meeting Bahraini families' needs to sustainability standards.

Bahrain's non-oil exports hit BD912 million in Q1 2026

GCC countries remain key drivers of trade flows



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Bahrain's non-oil exports of national origin reached 912 million dinars (\$2.42 billion) in the first quarter of 2026, according to official trade data released on Saturday, reflecting a year-on-year decline amid weaker global demand.

The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) said in its latest Foreign Trade Report that overall non-oil trade indicators showed contraction across both imports and exports compared with the same period in 2025.

Non-oil imports fell 17 percent to 1.272 billion dinars in Q1 2026, down from 1.527 billion dinars a year earlier. The report said the top 10 importing countries accounted for 71 percent of total import value, underscoring Bahrain's continued concentration of trade partners.

China remained Bahrain's

largest source of imports, supplying goods worth 221 million dinars, or 17 percent of the total. The United Arab Emirates followed with 165 million dinars (13 percent), while Saudi Arabia ranked third at 93 million dinars (7 percent).

Among key import commodities, aluminum oxide topped the list at 72 million dinars (6 percent), followed by gold ingots valued at 57 million dinars (4.5 percent). Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates came third, reaching 54 million dinars (4.2 percent).

On the export side, non-oil exports of national origin declined 10 percent year-on-year, falling from 1.017 billion dinars in Q1 2025 to 912 million dinars in Q1 2026. The top 10 export destinations accounted for 77 percent of total exports.

Bahrain Non-Oil Exports (Q1 2026)

Top export market: Saudi Arabia – BD287 million (31%)

Second largest market: United Arab Emirates – BD121 million (13%)

Third largest market: United States – BD66 million (7%)

Top export products:

Unwrought aluminum alloys – BD244 million (27%)

Agglomerated iron ores & concentrates (alloyed) – BD129 million (14%)

Non-alloyed aluminum wire – BD66 million (7%)