

Bahrain EDB boss steers summer Davos

H.E. Noor Alkhulaif brings bold Bahrain vision to China-led global economic talks

- Bahrain EDB CEO co-chairs WEF
 - Focus on women, innovation, China ties
 - Kingdom pushes global investment pitch
- Mahir Haneef**
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Bahrain’s Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB), H.E. Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, has taken centre stage this week as Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum’s Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2025, hosted in Tianjin, China.

The prestigious role puts H.E. Alkhulaif among a select group of global figures shaping the agenda at the three-day forum, often dubbed ‘Summer Davos’, which gathers over 1,700 leaders from government, business, civil society, and academia to navigate fast-changing global trends.

Leading role

Bahrain’s participation stands out not just for its economic pitch but for its leadership face. As one of the few Arab women co-chairing the event, H.E. Alkhulaif brings a distinctive voice to panels on emerging economies, workforce readiness, innovation, and female empowerment. Her inclusion also reflects the Kingdom’s growing

influence in global policy conversations around digital transformation and sustainability. This year’s forum theme, ‘Entrepreneurship for a New Era’, aligns closely with Bahrain’s diversification efforts, with sessions structured around key themes such as ‘Deciphering the World Economy’, ‘Outlook on China’, ‘Industries Disrupted’, and ‘Investing in People and Planet’.

Global ties

H.E. Alkhulaif is joined by other high-level Co-Chairs including H.E. Faisal Alibrahim of Saudi Arabia, Egypt’s Minister H.E. Rania Al-Mashat, Henadi Al Saleh of Agility, and Chinese energy giant CNPC’s Chairman Dai Houliang, further amplifying MENA and Asia’s influence at the global forum. As Co-Chair, H.E. Alkhulaif

will take part in sessions including ‘Contours of a New Economic Order’, ‘MENA-China Trade and Investment Relations’, ‘Skills That Matter’, and ‘Women Leaders - Shaping Tomorrow’s Economy’, offering Bahrain a global platform to showcase its reforms and ambitions.

Strategic platform

Alongside her engagements, Bahrain EDB officials are also set to participate in high-level bilateral meetings and networking events aimed at deepening investor ties and boosting the Kingdom’s competitiveness. Bahrain’s long-standing partnership with the World Economic Forum is a cornerstone of its international engagement strategy, and H.E. Alkhulaif’s selection as Co-Chair reflects both her leadership credentials and the Kingdom’s aspirations



The Annual Meeting of the New Champions, known as ‘Summer Davos’, is the World Economic Forum’s flagship meeting on innovation, held annually in China since 2007.

to position itself as a high-value investment destination in an era defined by disruption. The forum runs until June 26th.

BFC names Grand Prize winners in Doorway to Win \$100,000 campaign



The award ceremony
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BFC has announced the grand prize winners of its “Doorway to Win \$100,000” campaign, celebrating customer loyalty and rewarding their trust.

Habib Mahdi Ali Mahdi Sadeq Ali was awarded a prize of \$10,000. Expressing his delight, Habib stated, “Winning with BFC is fantastic. Their services are always reliable, and now, they’ve brought me this amaz-

ing surprise!” Fakher Javed also celebrated the win, taking home \$5,000. Fakher shared his excitement, saying, “I’m incredibly grateful to BFC! This prize will make a real difference for me and my family.” The prize

money was personally handed over by Deepak Nair, CEO of BFC. “It’s truly rewarding to see the joy these prizes bring to our loyal customers,” said Nair. “The ‘Doorway to Win \$100,000’ campaign was our

way of giving back and showing appreciation for the trust our customers place in BFC. We look forward to continuing to provide excellent service and more exciting opportunities for our community.”

US Fed chair to signal no rush for rate cuts despite Trump pressure
Washington, United States

US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell will tell Congress yesterday that the central bank can afford to wait for the impact of tariffs before deciding on further interest rate cuts -- despite President Donald Trump's calls to do so. The Fed has a duty to prevent a one-time spike in prices from becoming an “ongoing inflation problem,” Powell said in prepared remarks to the House Committee on Financial Services. “For the time being, we are well positioned to wait to learn more about the likely course of the economy before considering any adjustments to our policy stance,” he added. Powell’s reiteration that the Fed can wait to lower rates comes after two Fed officials recently expressed openness to cuts as early as in July. The Fed has held the benchmark lending rate steady this year after its last cut in December, bringing the level to a range between 4.25% and 4.50%.

Trump says China can continue to buy Iranian oil

Aboard Air Force One, Undefined
China can continue to buy Iranian oil, US President

Donald Trump said yesterday in what appeared to be relief for Tehran from sanctions Washington has previously imposed to punish the trade.

“China can now continue to purchase Oil from Iran. Hopefully, they will be purchasing plenty from the US, also,” Trump wrote in a post on his Truth So-

cial platform as he travelled to a NATO summit in The Hague. China’s position as the main buyer of Iranian oil has served as a crucial lifeline for Teh-

ran as its economy is battered by crippling international sanctions. Beijing buys more than 90% of Iran’s oil exports, according

to the analysis firm Kpler. It imported 1.3 million barrels of Iranian crude oil a day in April, down from a five-month high in March.