

SCW Turns Anniversary Into Leadership Agenda

New plan, new committees, future focus

● SCW marks 24th anniversary

● 2025–2026 plan unveiled

● Women in Sports Committee

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

The Supreme Council for Women (SCW) has used its 24th anniversary not just for celebration but to set a new course, unveiling a national plan and approving fresh institutional measures designed to push Bahraini women into leadership roles.

At the Council's fifth meeting of its eighth term (2022–2025),



HRH Princess Sabeeka chairs fifth SCW meeting in its eighth term

Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Consort of His Majesty the King and SCW President, congratulated members on the anniversary and announced the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2025–2026) under the theme "From Empowerment and Progress towards Leadership."

HRH also revealed the theme for 2025 Bahraini Women's Day: "Bahraini Women: Distinction,

Creativity, Innovation." The commemoration will spotlight Bahraini women's achievements in innovation and excellence, celebrate international and regional awards, and record their success stories in national development.

Royal support

HRH Princess Sabeeka credited His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's continuous support as the foundation of the

Council's achievements. She also welcomed the Cabinet's congratulations, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, along with messages from the Royal Family, senior officials, dignitaries, and the Bahraini public.

Her Royal Highness praised the government's cooperation with ministries and institutions in driving the Council's programmes, noting that such co-

ordination has broadened women's role in the economy and improved the quality of services available to them.

Institutional measures

The Council endorsed steps by the General Secretariat on equal-opportunity committees in government bodies and reviewed preparations to establish a Women in Sports Committee.

Secretary-General Hala Lulwa Al Awadhi briefed members on

Bahrain was the first GCC country to establish a national women's council when the SCW was created in 2001.

the follow-up to the national plan, participation in specialised committees, and ongoing cooperation with international organisations through memoranda of understanding that aim to strengthen the standing of Bahraini women abroad.

HRH Princess Sabeeka underlined that the Council would continue to work with government entities, the private sector, and civil society to consolidate stability for women, ensure equal opportunity, and strengthen gender balance.

Smart Eyes on Bahrain Roads

● 500 AI smart cameras

● Integrated monitoring system

● Vision 2030 aligned

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

An artificial intelligence-powered monitoring system with 500 smart cameras will soon be rolled out across Bahrain's roads under a new agreement between the Ministry of Interior and Beyon.

The deal, signed at the Ministry's headquarters, places Beyon Solutions in charge of equipping the General Directorate of Traffic with an integrated system designed to modernise traffic control and enhance public safety.

Officials said the technology goes beyond conventional surveillance, using AI tools that can self-learn, evolve and de-



H.E. Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa and H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa sign the agreement, in the presence of H.E. Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa and H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa

liver highly accurate data. This capability is expected to allow authorities to take proactive measures in tackling violations and easing congestion.

Leadership Backing

The signing ceremony brought together senior figures, including H.E. Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the General Traffic Council, and H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy. The agreement was signed by H.E. Shaikh Hisham

bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, Undersecretary for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs, and H.E. Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of Mumtalakat and Chairman of Beyon.

National Vision

Beyon described the partnership as part of wider national efforts, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and supported by the government under His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to protect

lives and modernise legislative frameworks.

H.E. Shaikh Abdulla said the project reflects Beyon's commitment to supporting Bahrain's Vision 2030 goals while reinforcing the Kingdom's position as a regional hub for digital transformation. His Excellency added that Beyon Solutions will provide support throughout all phases of the implementation.

With AI now at the heart of the Kingdom's road strategy, the agreement marks one of the most ambitious traffic safety upgrades Bahrain has undertaken to date.

AI Roudha Camp Roundabout inauguration



Lieutenant General His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Advisor and Royal Guard Commander, attended the inauguration of the AI Roudha Camp Roundabout. At the centre of the roundabout stands a memorial dedicated to the achievement of the Royal Guard team that scaled Mount Everest, with the climbers themselves attending the opening ceremony. HH Shaikh Nasser emphasised that the memorial stands as a testament to the courage and determination of the Royal Guard personnel who raised the Bahraini flag on the world's highest peak. His Highness said it reflects the spirit of challenge and perseverance embraced by the people of Bahrain.

Bahrain-Egypt ties



His Excellency Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce, highlighted the strong historical and economic ties between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Egypt and stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation. This came as the Minister received H.E. Riham Abdelhamid Mahmoud Ibrahim Khalil, Ambassador of Egypt to Bahrain. The Ambassador praised the bilateral relations that bind the two countries in various fields, and commended Bahrain's development and prosperity in various sectors.

Bahrain economy to 'grow' at 2.7% in 2025, 3.3% in 2026

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's economy is set to grow by 2.7 per cent in 2025 and 3.3 per cent in 2026, up from 2.6 per cent this year, the Arab Monetary Fund said.

Non-oil activity, which makes up most of output, is the main driver.

Investment in roads and utilities, logistics, modern finance

and tourism is expected to keep that pace.

The outlook sits within the Economic Recovery Plan launched in October 2021, a programme of more than \$30bn in projects across tourism, telecoms, industry, housing, education, and youth and sport.

National strategies

The plan also rolls out national strategies to widen the base of

the economy and lift the share of ICT, logistics and financial services in GDP.

The current account is forecast to keep healthy surpluses, backed by foreign-currency earnings from oil, aluminium and tourism.

Across the Arab world, growth is put at 3.8 per cent in 2025 and 4.3 per cent in 2026, from 2.2 per cent in 2024.

Price pressures

Inflation is seen easing from 31.9 per cent this year to 20.8 per cent next year and 14.2 per cent in 2026; excluding countries with extreme price pressures, the rates fall to 7.6 per cent in 2025 and 5.6 per cent in 2026.

For the Gulf states, growth is projected at 4.0 per cent in 2025 and 4.4 per cent in 2026, after 2.2 per cent in 2024, helped by non-oil sectors.