

Chamber Drives Development Efforts

Private sector role in ensuring market stability



Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh with Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry's newly elected Board of Directors and senior Shura Council officials

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Chairman of Bahrain's Shura Council praised the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its role in supporting economic growth and the Kingdom's development drive under the country's leadership.

Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh said the chamber has made "prominent contributions" to sustaining Bahrain's economic renaissance and strengthening the private sector, crediting it with a long record of achievements since its establishment.

His remarks came during a meeting with members of the chamber's newly elected 31st

Board of Directors, led by Nabeel Khalid Kanoo, and attended by senior Shura Council officials.

Confidence

Al Saleh congratulated the board members on their election and expressed confidence in their ability to put forward "constructive ideas and visions"

that serve both consumers and traders, while reinforcing Bahrain's position as a regional commercial hub.

He stressed that the private sector remains a key partner in development, working alongside the government to advance economic initiatives and improve the performance of commercial and industrial institutions.

The Shura Council chairman also highlighted efforts by private sector actors, in coordination with authorities, to maintain supply chains and market stability, particularly amid "unjustified Iranian attacks" on Bahrain.

He reaffirmed the Shura Council's commitment to continued coordination with the

chamber, especially on draft laws and economic policies, through joint consultative committees.

For his part, Kanoo thanked the Shura Council for its support and said the chamber remains committed to strengthening cooperation with lawmakers to advance Bahrain's economic development agenda.

New SDG Data Framework

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain has developed plans covering 251 United Nations development indicators as part of efforts to strengthen the quality and coverage of national data aligned with global sustainability targets, the Ministry of Sustainable Development said on Wednesday.

The ministry told Parliament that its work under the UN 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on helping government entities measure, report, and align policies with international benchmarks.

The update came in response to a parliamentary question by MP Abdulhakeem Al Sheno regarding the ministry's support



“**Each institution plays a defined role in turning targets into measurable results**”

NOOR AL KHULAIF, MINISTER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT to other state bodies, performance measurement, and out-



“**We are seeking clarity on how government bodies are supported in implementing sustainable development indicators**”

ABDULHAKHEEM AL SHENO, MP comes achieved so far. Sustainable Development

Minister and Economic Development Board chief executive Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif said implementation of the SDGs is a "shared national responsibility," with each ministry accountable for its respective sector.

She said the ministry's role includes coordination, data verification, training workshops, capacity building, and collaboration with international organisations.

According to the ministry, work under the National Information and Population Committee has identified lead and supporting agencies for each SDG target and indicator. The 251 prepared action plans aim to enhance the availability and accuracy of SDG-related data, alongside monitoring reporting timelines to international bodies.

New licensing system for senior care launched

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Private elderly care homes and day clubs in Bahrain now require a licence from the Social Development Ministry under new regulations aimed at strengthening oversight and standards for senior care services.

Social Development Minister Osama Al Alawi issued the rules, which were published in the Official Gazette, bringing into force Decision No. 17 of 2026.

Under the new framework, no individual or company may establish or operate a care home or day club without prior ministry approval. Applicants must submit formal applications along with supporting documents. The ministry will review and record these documents in an official register before completing licensing procedures.

The regulations distinguish between residential care homes, which provide full-time accommodation and services, and day clubs, which offer social and recreational activities without housing.

Applicants must meet strict eligibility conditions, including a minimum age of 25, good conduct, financial capability, and a clean criminal record in cases involving dishonesty or breach of trust, unless legally rehabili-



Osama Al Alawi, Minister of Social Development



Key requirements for operators:

- Minimum age: 25
- Good conduct and clean criminal record
- Proof of financial capacity and funding source
- Qualified managers required for companies and institutions

tated. Companies must appoint qualified managers with relevant academic backgrounds or at least two years of experience in social or care services.

26,000 Firms Cancelled

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Active commercial registrations in Bahrain have climbed steadily over the past three years despite thousands of closures and more than 600,000 recorded breaches, the Industry and Commerce Minister told parliament.

According to Industry and Commerce Minister Abdulla Fakhro, the number of active business registrations rose from 87,648 in 2023 to 91,408 in 2024, and 96,429 in 2025, be-



Abdulla Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce

fore slightly adjusting to 96,331 by April this year.

In the same period from January



Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, MP

2023 to December 2025, 26,227 commercial registrations were cancelled at the request of business

owners, he said in a written reply to MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen.

The minister said the cancellations reflect a "natural rate of renewal" in the market, adding that early-stage business sustainability remains one of the key challenges for investors.

He cited common causes of business failure, including weak feasibility studies, poor cost planning, limited financial and marketing management, mixing of personal and business finances, and difficulty adapting to market changes.

Minister receives global award for advancing agricultural development

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Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture, Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, has received the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation in its 18th edition, held in Abu Dhabi under the patronage of

UAE Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Presidential Court Chairman Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Al Mubarak said the recognition reflects Bahrain's "national approach" to advancing the agricultural sector through sustainability and innovation, backed by the support of King

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and directives from Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

He highlighted the role of national efforts in strengthening food security, adopting modern farming technologies, and supporting farmers, adding that the award serves as further moti-

vation to continue developing the sector.

The minister praised the contribution of Princess Sabika bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa in supporting agricultural development initiatives, particularly in palm cultivation and date production, as well as efforts linked to afforestation and environmental projects.



H.E. Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak makes Bahrain proud