

# Dignity reinforced and rights upheld

Shura Council backs amendments strengthening protections for persons with disabilities

● New decree-law advances reforms while preserving existing benefits

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council approved yesterday a decree-law amending the 2006 law on the care, rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities, after its Services Committee said the changes meet constitutional and legal tests and leave existing rights and benefits unchanged.

The decree-law, Decree-Law No. (34) of 2025 amending Law No. (74) of 2006, was passed by roll-call vote and sent to the Speaker of Parliament to notify the government.

The committee said the text was issued under Article 38 of the Constitution during Parliament's recess and submitted to both chambers within the legal time limits.

Reporting for the committee, rapporteur Lina Habib Qassem



H.E. Osama Al Alawi



Lina Habib Qassem



Ali Al Haddad

**“The decree-law strengthens the legal basis for a set of procedures that accompanied its issue, including changes to the ministry’s set-up for disability services.”**

— H.E. OSAMA AL ALAWI, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

**“The decree-law aims to develop the legislative framework in line with contemporary rights-based shifts and to reinforce the dignity and rights of persons with disabilities.”**

— LINA HABIB QASSEM, COMMITTEE RAPPORTEUR

said the decree-law aims to “develop the legislative framework in line with contemporary rights-based shifts” and to “reinforce the dignity and rights of

persons with disabilities”.

## Update

She said it also seeks to update the law to match national

policies and the government programme on empowerment and inclusion.

One change rewrites how the body in charge of disability matters is described in law.

The title “Higher Committee” is removed and replaced with a reference to “the committee established under Article 16”, with its name, composition and term of membership to be set by a decision issued by the Prime Minister.

## Wording

The Services Committee said the wording leaves more scope for future changes to the set-up without needing to amend the law each time.

Social Development Minister,

His Excellency Osama Al Alawi, told the sitting the decree-law “strengthens the legal basis for a set of procedures” that accompanied its issue, including changes to the ministry’s set-up for disability services.

He said Bahrain would keep the term “persons with disabilities” in legal texts in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified under Law No. (22) of 2011, while using newer labels in organisational structures and services to support empowerment and inclusion.

## Terms

Shura Council member Ali Al Haddad said the decree-law “brings the terms used in the law into line with the current set-up and removes any duplication or clash in names”, adding that it does so “without affecting the rights and benefits granted to persons with disabilities”.

The Services Committee said the amendments are limited to how bodies are arranged and coordinated, including titles and committee arrangements, and do not change the substantive provisions of the 2006 law.

**Caution over fraudulent online store accounts**

**Rehab Mohammad**  
TDT | Manama

The Cybercrime Directorate has warned of the spread of fake store accounts on Instagram that impersonate the names and logos of well-known retailers, appearing as official accounts in order to deceive users and steal their money.

The authority explained that these accounts rely on copying the visual identity of original stores and using similar images and posts, while offering attractive promotions to gain followers’ trust.

Victims are then asked to transfer money or communicate through applications outside the platform, such as WhatsApp.

## Methods

It stressed that these methods are among the most common forms of online fraud in recent times, urging users to verify official accounts through authorized websites or recognized store branches, and not to rely solely on the account name or logo.

Users were also advised to remain cautious before making purchases, review the account’s history, check genuine engagement and ratings, and report any suspicious accounts, noting that digital awareness is the first line of defense against cyber fraud.

## Council approval clears path for Hamala garden project

**Hasan Barakat**  
TDT | Manama

Formal approval has been confirmed to proceed with the development of a public garden on a designated plot of land in Hamala, clearing the way for the project to move from planning to implementation.

The decision reflects the completion of administrative coordination and legal verification required to secure the land for municipal use.

The site was previously under the authority of the Ministry of Housing before being transferred to the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

## Registration

It has since been officially classified as a public garden, with its registration confirmed as a government owned prop-

erty allocated for municipal services.

This classification establishes the legal framework necessary for development and long term maintenance.

The proposed garden is intended to serve as a recreational and environmental outlet for residents of Hamala, responding to community needs for open public spaces within residential areas.

## Objectives

Municipal officials have indicated that the project aligns with broader objectives to enhance liveability and improve access to green spaces across neighbourhoods in the Northern Governorate.

A field visit was conducted to review the current condition of the land and follow up on procedural progress. The visit confirmed that the site is suitable for development.

## Halla Cafe: GCC’s only cafe run by autistic adults

TDT | Manama

We humans can be a strange lot at times, tending to shy away from what we don’t fully understand.

Autism is one such part of life that is often misunderstood or overlooked.

Halla Cafe flips that script entirely. Here, the spotlight is on ability, creativity, and inclusion.

Located in Bahrain, it is the only cafe in the GCC run by autistic young adults, giving them a space to learn, grow, and shine while serving the community.

Launched a year and a half ago, Halla Cafe takes the life-skills and employability program for autistic young adults to the next level, giving them a place to learn, grow, and shine.

What began in classrooms



Halla Cafe provides autistic young adults with a space to learn, grow, and shine while serving the community

and kitchens has evolved into a real-world environment where young adults bake, cook, make coffee, serve customers, and engage confidently with the public. Every item at Halla Cafe carries meaning.

Food, drinks, and merchandise - from sandwiches and tra-

ditional Arabic dishes to books, cups, tote bags, and decorative items - are all made, packed, and decorated by the young adults themselves and hence deeply personal, authentic, and purposeful, supporting skill-building, independence, and self-esteem.



## Bahrain-Brazil cooperation

His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received Member of the Federal Senate of Brazil, Flávio Nantes Bolsonaro, in the presence of Chief of Police, Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Legislative Affairs, Rashid Bunajma. H.E. General Shaikh Rashid welcomed the visit of the Brazilian Senator from Rio de Janeiro to the Kingdom of Bahrain, highlighting its role in strengthening cooperation and coordination between the two countries. The meeting also reviewed areas of security cooperation.

**Bahrain participates in Arab and Indian forum**

**New Delhi**

The Kingdom of Bahrain participated in the second ministerial meeting of the Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum.

The meeting was co-chaired by the League of Arab States and the Republic of India and focused on strengthening cooperation and partnership between the Arab and Indian sides.

The delegation was led by His Excellency Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah bin Ali Al Khalifa, Director General of Bilateral Relations. Ambassador Ahmed Al Tarifi, Chief of the Arab and African Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was also present.

H.E. Ambassador Shaikh Abdullah bin Ali affirmed the Kingdom’s commitment to supporting and advancing Arab-Indian cooperation across various domains, particularly in the political, economic, investment, energy, and technological sectors, in a manner that serves shared interests and contributes to sustainable development.

He underscored the importance of the Arab-Indian Cooperation Forum as a key strategic platform for dialogue and coordination.