

Parliament Expected to Return for Final Session in October

Final session to tackle deputy speaker vote, corporate tax, state budget and pending laws

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

MPs face a final-session race to clear a heavy stack of laws and spending plans when Parliament returns in October, with the state budget, corporate tax and the choice of a new First Deputy Speaker high on the list.

Parliamentary sources told The Daily Tribune that the National Assembly, comprising the Council of Representatives and Shura Council, is expected to return on Sunday, October 11, for the fifth and final convening period of the current legislative term.

The return is formally called by Royal Order, in line with the Constitution, which provides for His Majesty the King to summon the National Assembly into session.

For MPs, one of the first battles will be over who takes the First Deputy Speaker's chair.

The post has been vacant since Abdalnabi Salman lost his parliamentary membership in May. The vote is expected at the first sitting of the Council of Representatives, likely on October 13. Three names have emerged as frontrunners: Dr



Council of Representatives

Hisham Al Ashiri, Financial and Economic Affairs Committee chairman Ahmed Al Salloom and MP Zainab Abdulameer.

Money will also weigh heavily on the session. The corporate tax project is expected to return to Parliament alongside the state budget, while MPs are also due to consider plans for a national fund to support small and medium-sized firms.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee is meanwhile studying amendments to penalties linked to terrorism offences before the measure goes through its remaining parliamentary stages.

Another bill would slash the wait for criminal rehabilitation. For felonies, the period would

fall from two years to three months. For misdemeanours, it would drop from one year to one month.

MPs are also due to vote on a new government-drafted building law carrying fines of up to BD50,000.

Under the bill, the minister would be able to bar building work during specified hours, while the authorities could order unlawful construction to be removed.

Away from law-making, MPs are expected to press for progress on several public projects.

They include the redevelopment of Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Highway, where work is expected to begin in early 2027, upgrades to Sitra Central



MPs Bader Al Tameemi, Dr Ali Al Nuaimi and Hassan Ebrahim during a parliamentary meeting

Market and plans to improve aid for fishermen. Electricity bills will return to the political agenda too.

MPs have called for changes to the way subsidies are worked out for extended households and properties occupied by two or more Bahraini families who each qualify for support.

They are awaiting ministerial replies after asking for the system to take account of the true make-up of families living under one roof. Sources expect the final session to be crowded with laws and public-service files that have built up over recent months, as MPs try to clear as much unfinished business as possible before the current legislative term ends.

GCC Customs Union Strengthens Emergency Readiness

Interior Minister praises coordinated efforts to keep trade and supply chains moving



Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received the heads of delegations participating in the 18th meeting of the GCC Customs Union Authority's Executive Council, held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

At the meeting, the Interior Minister expressed his appreciation for the efforts of GCC member states to complete the requirements of the customs union, which enjoys the support of Their Majesties and Highnesses the leaders of the GCC countries.

He praised the GCC states for their coordinated response to the repercussions of the Strait of Hormuz closure, including launching an exceptional temporary logistical transit mechanism.

The mechanism played a key role in accelerating the movement of goods and ensuring the smooth flow of shipments, particularly food and medical supplies. This was achieved through the rapid exchange of information,

coordination of procedures and the unification of customs efforts, reflecting the high level of readiness among GCC countries to deal with emergency situations and maintain the continuity of trade and supply chains.

The Interior Minister stressed that the next phase requires accelerating progress and further developing joint GCC efforts in light of successive challenges to complete the establishment of the customs union and translate its objectives into reality.

He also highlighted the role of customs systems and procedures in improving the efficiency of border crossings, securing supply chains, and safeguarding the security, safety, and economic interests of GCC countries.

During the meeting, the Interior Minister commended the efforts of the GCC Customs Union Authority and its role in completing the requirements for establishing the customs union and advancing joint Gulf customs cooperation.

A New Chapter in Bahrain's Cancer Care

P3 HIPEC system installed at Bahrain Oncology Centre for the first time



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The Royal Medical Services (RMS) has introduced advanced medical technologies and equipment for cancer treatment at the Bahrain Oncology Centre, including the P3 HIPEC system, installed for the first time in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Commander of the Royal Medical Services, Major General Dr. Shaikh Fahad bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, said that advancing cancer treatment capabilities and strengthening specialised services remain among the priorities of the Royal Medical Services, in line with global developments in medical care and efforts to enhance the quality of healthcare provided to patients.

He highlighted the introduction of advanced treatment technologies, including Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC), as re-

flecting the continued development of the Royal Medical Services' specialised medical capabilities and its commitment to providing advanced treatment options in accordance with the highest standards.

He noted that the successful completion of the first surgical procedure using HIPEC at the Bahrain Oncology Centre to treat ovarian cancer represents a significant medical achievement, reflecting the integration of national and international expertise, as well as the centre's medical and technological readiness.

Dr. Shaikh Fahad affirmed that continued investment in modern technologies and the development of specialised medical expertise would further strengthen Bahrain's capabilities in providing advanced cancer treatment services.

The Royal Medical Services said the P3 HIPEC system is being introduced in Bahrain for the first time, making the

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Bahrain performs its first ovarian cancer surgery using HIPEC, marking a major advance in specialised cancer care.

Kingdom the second country in the Middle East to have access to this specialised system and further strengthening the advanced treatment services available at the Bahrain Oncology Centre.

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