

MPs Urge Focus on AI Skills and National Identity

Lawmakers say students must be ready for an AI-driven future while teachers remain key to raising the next generation

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Schools must prepare young Bahrainis for an AI-driven future without losing sight of national identity, MPs have said as students return for the 2026 - 27 academic year.

MP Maryam Al Sayegh said His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's message for the new school year made clear that education was the best way to build the country's future.

She said the King had placed citizenship, belonging, skills, teachers and the family at the core of learning, making education a shared duty between schools, homes and society.

Ms Al Sayegh said the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for schools, technical education and new methods of teaching was helping prepare students for the years ahead.

She pointed in particular to giving students access to artificial intelligence and innovation tools.

MP Dr Hassan Bukhammas, Chairman of Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence, and National Security Committee said education lay at the root of a country's progress and should help raise Bahrainis who are proud of their identity and armed with knowledge.

He said the King's message also placed teachers in a key role, while calling for school curricula to keep pace with



year had required close work across the Education Ministry to ready schools and provide a suitable environment for students and staff. 'We renew our confidence in the abilities of our teachers,' he said. 'They are partners in building the future.'

The MPs also praised Education Minister Dr Mohammed Juma and ministry staff for prepa-



Education must build pride in national identity and knowledge.

DR HASSAN BUKHAMMAS, CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENT'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE, AND NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE



Teachers are partners in building Bahrain's future.

MP JALAL KADHEM



AI and innovation skills are essential for our students' future.

MP MARYAM AL SAYEGH

modern technology and for closer ties between parents and schools.

Dr Bukhammas said work on school buildings, digital learning and future skills was helping improve what pupils gain from their education.

MP Jalal Kadhém said teachers remained central to building Bahrain's future, praising their role in raising new generations and instilling knowledge, belonging and a sense of responsibility.

He said the start of the school

rations ahead of the school year, including readying schools for students.

They congratulated students, teachers, school staff and parents on the start of the academic year and wished them success in the months ahead.

Powers Ahead in Digital Innovation



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Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa participated in the opening session of LEAP 2026 in Riyadh, alongside Saudi Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdullah bin Amer Al Swaha.

The session featured a presentation by HUMAIN, along with keynote speeches addressing artificial intelligence, digital transformation, innovation and the future of emerging technologies.

Dr. Shaikh Abdullah highlighted Bahrain's continued efforts to strengthen its position in the global digital economy and establish the Kingdom as an attractive environment for innovation, investment and advanced technologies.

He said these efforts are

supported by advanced digital infrastructure, national expertise and effective international partnerships.

The minister stressed the importance of continually adopting modern technologies and artificial intelligence to support economic growth, enhance the competitiveness of various sectors and create broader opportunities for high-quality and sustainable investment.

He also underscored the importance of strengthening international cooperation and developing partnerships in technology, telecommunications and artificial intelligence.

Such cooperation, he said, would facilitate the exchange of expertise and experiences with governments, institutions and leading technology companies, enabling Bahrain to keep pace with global technological developments and benefit from innovative solutions and practices.



During his visit, the minister toured the LEAP 2026 exhibition

Bahrain, Japan Discuss Stronger Economic Ties

Talks focused on economic cooperation, investment opportunities and global economic developments

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Bahrain and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening economic, trade and investment cooperation during a meeting between senior officials from both countries.

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, received Kenji Yamada, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, in Manama.

The meeting was also attended by Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Commerce.

Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa highlighted the deep-rooted

relations between Bahrain and Japan and the shared interest in further developing bilateral ties across various fields, particularly in the economic, trade and investment sectors.

He stressed the importance of building on the progress made in cooperation and coordination between the two countries, supported by existing agreements and their distinguished partnership, to advance shared objectives and deliver mutual benefits for Bahrain, Japan and their peoples.

The meeting also reviewed areas of economic, trade and investment cooperation, with discussions focusing on promising investment opportuni-



ties, issues of common interest and the latest developments in the global economy.

Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, CEO of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, and Asako Oka, Ambassador of Japan to Bahrain.

BDF Chief of Staff Receives Kuwaiti Military Attaché



Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force, received Brigadier General Musaed Haji Raja Al Khayat Al Azmi, Military Attaché at the Embassy of Kuwait to Bahrain. Lieutenant General Al Nuaimi welcomed the Kuwaiti military attaché and expressed appreciation for the strong and longstanding fraternal relations between Bahrain and Kuwait. The meeting highlighted the close ties between the two brotherly countries and their continued cooperation and shared relations.

Traffic Directorate Briefs Student Transport Drivers



The General Directorate of Traffic has organised awareness lectures for student transport drivers in the government and private sectors as part of preparations for the new academic year, focusing on safe transportation practices and compliance with traffic regulations. The directorate stressed the importance of observing speed limits, carrying only the authorised number of passengers and using designated parking and drop-off areas. Drivers were also urged to cooperate with Community Police officers and school guards to help organise traffic and improve safety around schools. The directorate called on parents to avoid hiring unlicensed drivers and to ensure student transport operators hold the required licence from the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications.

Commander-in-Chief Receives Supreme Health Council Chairman



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), received Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health yesterday. The BDF Commander-in-Chief welcomed the Supreme Council of Health Chairman and praised the council's efforts in managing medical services and healthcare in Bahrain. He highlighted the continued support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and Prime Minister. Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa also commended the council's continued efforts to develop healthcare institutions and medical systems and improve their quality to keep pace with advancements in the vital sector and better serve citizens and residents.

Bahrain, Jordan Reaffirm Strong Defence Relations



Lieutenant General Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, Chief of Staff of the Bahrain Defence Force, received Brigadier General Jihad Hamoud Omair Al Adwan, Military Attaché at the Embassy of Jordan to Bahrain. The Chief of Staff welcomed the Jordanian military attaché and praised the strong fraternal relations between Bahrain and Jordan. The meeting underscored the close ties linking the two brotherly countries and their continued cooperation.