

Calls for Stronger Parliamentary Cooperation

TDT | Manama
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The parliamentary delegation of the Kingdom of Bahrain, led by H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ali Hassan Ali, Chair of the Public Utilities and Environment Committee of the Shura Council, participated in the opening session of the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians 2026, which commenced in the Serbian capital, Belgrade, under the theme "Promoting Equality: Breaking Barriers of Gender Stereotypes and Negative Social Norms," organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in cooperation with the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia.

The opening session featured addresses by H.E. Ana Brnabić, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia; H.E. Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union; and H.E. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the IPU, as well as a statement by a representative of the Serbian National Assembly. The keynote address was delivered by H.E. Senator Cynthia López Castro, Member



of the Mexican Senate and Chair of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, entitled "From Mexico to Belgrade: Continuing the Path Toward Equality."

The conference addresses, across seven sessions, key issues including dismantling barriers to equality, challenging stereotypes and negative social norms, promoting diversity in parliamentary work, combating misinformation and violence against women in politics, strengthening gender-sensitive parliaments, sharing cross-

sector experiences to transform leadership and institutional culture, and supporting the participation of women and youth in democratic life.

Pushes Parliamentary Diplomacy Forward

On the sidelines of the conference, the Bahraini delegation held a meeting with H.E. Edin Đerlek, Deputy Speaker of the Serbian National Assembly, in the presence of H.E. Dr. Jameela Mohammed Redha Al Salman,

H.E. MP Zainab Abdullameer Khalil, and H.E. MP Mohammed Mohammed Al Rifaie, along with several members of the Serbian Parliament.

During the meeting, the delegation emphasized the importance of further strengthening parliamentary cooperation and exchanging expertise between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the friendly Republic of Serbia to support bilateral relations and expand areas of joint cooperation. It also highlighted the growing role of parliamentary diplo-



macy in bringing peoples closer together, strengthening friendship and mutual understanding, and opening broader channels for dialogue and coordination on issues of common interest.

The delegation praised the warm reception and excellent organization of the conference, noting its important focus on women's empowerment and equality, and its role as a key platform for exchanging parliamentary experiences worldwide. It reaffirmed the commitment of Bahrain's legislative authority to strengthening parliamentary relations with Serbia and building on the strong ties between the

two friendly countries.

For his part, the Deputy Speaker of the Serbian National Assembly expressed his pride in hosting the conference, stressing the importance of supporting women's participation in political life and decision-making, and praising the strong bilateral relations between the two countries. He also highlighted the positive impact of reciprocal official visits in strengthening relations, as well as Bahrain's humanitarian stance toward Serbia during the COVID-19 pandemic, which reflected the depth of friendship and cooperation between both sides.

Bahrain Mourns Former Yemeni President



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Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, visited the Embassy of Yemen in Bahrain to offer condolences following the death of former Yemeni President Field Marshal Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.

During the visit, Al Zayani conveyed the condolences and sympathy of Bahrain's government to the people and leadership of Yemen. He met with Ahmed Mohammed Al Juffi, Deputy Ambassador of Yemen

to Bahrain, at the embassy in Manama.

The foreign minister paid tribute to Hadi's contributions and service to Yemen, recalling his role during a critical period in the country's history. He also praised the late president's dedication to his national responsibilities and his efforts in leading Yemen through challenging times.

Minister Al Zayani said Hadi left a legacy of sincere service to Yemen, prayed for mercy upon his soul, and extended condolences to his family and the Yemeni people.

Bahrain Draws 16m Non-Bahraini Arrivals

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Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain received 16.04 million non-Bahraini arrivals in 2025, its highest yearly total in nine years, as travel into the kingdom rose for a third year running after the pandemic slump.

Figures published by Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs at the Ministry of Interior on Bahrain's Open Data Portal show arrivals climbed from 15.71 million in 2024, up by 334,000 travellers, or 2.1 pc.

The total was also 1.92 million higher than in 2023, when 14.13 million arrivals were recorded. Compared with 2022, the number has risen by 4.66 million, or about 41 pc, from 11.38 million.

The rise was led mainly by visitors from the Gulf. GCC arrivals reached about 11.2 million in 2025, compared with 10.8



million in 2024 and 9.6 million in 2023.

Saudi Arabia made up the largest share by far, with more than 10.4 million arrivals. Kuwait came next with about 425,000, followed by Qatar with 151,000, the UAE with 114,000 and Oman with around 70,000.

The second quarter gave the main lift to the yearly rise. Arrivals during the period reached

about 4.13 million, compared with 3.93 million in the same quarter of 2024, an increase of more than 201,000, or 5.1 pc.

January was the busiest month of the year, with 1.54 million arrivals. May followed with 1.45 million, August with 1.44 million and November with 1.42 million.

Bahrain recorded year-on-year growth in seven months out of 12

in 2025. April posted the biggest monthly rise by rate, with arrivals up 12.1 pc, or about 146,000 travellers, compared with April 2024.

May rose by 7.9 pc, January by 6.6 pc, October by 6.3 pc and August by 5.8 pc. The GCC figures show the scale of the rebound. Gulf arrivals stood at more than 5.8 million in 2010 and rose to about 9.5 million in 2018, before easing to 8.4 million in 2019.

They then fell to about 1.2 million in 2020 as travel curbs hit movement across the region.

The number recovered to more than 8.2 million in 2022, then rose to 9.6 million in 2023 and 10.8 million in 2024, before reaching about 11.2 million in 2025. The 2025 figures put Bahrain above the 16 million mark for non-Bahraini arrivals in a single year, with nearby Gulf markets, chiefly Saudi Arabia, still accounting for most of the flow.

Education Links Strengthened



The Minister of Education, Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, received the French Ambassador to Bahrain, Eric Giraud-Telme, in Manama for talks focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation in education. The discussions focused on ways to further enhance existing cooperation between the two countries, including potential initiatives aimed at supporting educational exchange and academic collaboration.

Limited Supply Keeps Safi Prices High After Fishing Ban Ends

Fish markets across Bahrain recorded slow trading activity on Monday as only limited quantities of safi and shaari became available following the end of the seasonal fishing ban on safi, shaari and andaq.

Vendors at the Central Market and other fish stalls said safi was selling for between BD4.5 and BD5 per kilo, while shaari prices ranged from BD3.5 to BD4 a kilo.

Traders added that a full box of safi was selling for around BD180, while shaari boxes were priced at nearly BD160.

Sellers attributed the reduced supply and firm prices to strong winds during the Al Bareh season, which disrupted fishing operations and prevented some boats



from heading out to sea.

They said prices could begin to fall over the next few days if weather conditions improve and fishermen can bring in larger catches.

Bahrain-Jordan Ties Reviewed



His Highness Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Advisor to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, received Shaikh Khalifa bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the

longstanding relations between Bahrain and Jordan and discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation across various fields.

HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa praised the ambassador's efforts in enhancing bilateral ties and supporting continued coordination between the two countries.