

# Bahrain Calls for Stronger Laws to Boost Women in Politics

Building Gender-Sensitive Parliaments is No Longer Optional

TDT | Manama  
Rehab Mohammad



Bahrain's voice rang clear at one of the world's most important gatherings on women's political rights. MP Mohammed Al-Rifai, representing the Bahrain Parliamentary Division, used his address at the 2026 Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in Belgrade, Serbia, to call on nations to do more—through laws, policies, and parliamentary cooperation—to bring women fully into political life and decision-making.

Speaking during the fifth session of the conference, held from June 1 to 4 under the theme "Gender-Sensitive Parliaments Promote Societies Free from Stereotypes," Al-Rifai argued that parliaments must go beyond passing laws. They must also use their oversight authority and public influence to reshape how societies think about gender, leadership, and equal rep-

resentation.

Al-Rifai highlighted the tangible progress Bahrain has made under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Women today actively serve in both the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives, occupy seats on key committees, and hold leadership positions.

Most notably, Bahrain made

history when a woman served as Speaker of the Council of Representatives during the Fifth Legislative Term—a milestone that speaks louder than any policy statement.

He also called on parliaments globally to share knowledge and expertise, stressing that no country needs to solve this challenge alone. Building inclusive legislative institutions, he said, is a shared international responsibility that benefits every society.



**“Sustainable development cannot be achieved without a genuine and balanced partnership between women and men”**

- MP MOHAMMED AL-RIFAI

## Shura Council Finance Committee Completes a Packed Legislative Season

Shura Council Financial and Economic Committee wrapped up one of its most productive sessions on record, delivering 30 reports, reviewing 22 legislative items, and issuing 8 financial and economic opinions — all in a single session.

Chaired by H.E. Khalid Hussain Al Maskati, the committee held 27 meetings throughout the fourth session of the sixth legislative term, working through a wide-ranging legislative agenda that touched nearly every corner of Bahrain's economy.

Among the 22 legislative items reviewed were three decrees by law covering the Central Bank of Bahrain, the Commercial Companies Law, and the concession agreement for the Jubail and Pre-Khuff formations at Bahrain Field. The committee also scrutinised 17 draft laws spanning secured transactions, pension and retirement



H.E. Mr. Khalid Hussain Al Maskati

regulations, social insurance, consumer protection, industrial zones, private education, external auditors, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the unified GCC excise tax framework.

On the financial accountability side, the committee examined public accounts for multiple fiscal years — including the consolidated state final accounts, the Future Generations Reserve Fund, the Unemployment Insurance Fund, and the Shura Council's own audited financial statements. Budget execution



reports and transfers between budgetary accounts were also reviewed, reflecting a thorough approach to financial oversight.

## LMRA Launches Faster Digital Service for Labour Supply Licences

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The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has launched a revamped digital service for issuing labour supply agency licences, aimed at cutting processing times and simplifying procedures as part of Bahrain's wider government service reforms.

The updated system introduces a two-stage process covering initial approval and final licence issuance. The licence allows agencies to supply workers to

third parties for a set period or for specific tasks without direct supervision from the supplier.

According to LMRA, the processing time has been reduced from 20 working days to 15, while service level agreements have been shortened by at least 25 per cent. The application process has also been streamlined to a maximum of four steps, with standardised information now available across official platforms.

Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Arabi, Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Services and Business at the



LMRA, said the initiative reflects the authority's focus on digital transformation and improving service efficiency.

He said the redesigned service is intended to make procedures easier for businesses while supporting Bahrain's broader efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the labour market.

Al-Arabi added that the reforms aim to reduce both time and effort for service users while improving the system's overall efficiency.

The initiative forms part of a wider government programme to modernise public services, with more than 1,300 services documented and over 800 upgraded across various sectors.

## Learning Gets a Digital Boost

Teacher's Digital Platform Makes Science More Engaging for 500 Students



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More than 500 students have benefited from a digital platform created by science teacher Hussein Jaafar Abdullaali at Awal Primary Intermediate Boys School, turning classroom learning into a more interactive and rewarding experience.

The platform supports science lessons through a points-based system that encourages students to participate in class, complete homework, maintain positive behaviour and take part in educational projects and initiatives.

Students earn points for their achievements and move through different levels, creating a friendly sense of competition. Those with the highest scores are recognised for their efforts.

Abdullaali said the idea was developed to boost students' motivation and make learning more enjoyable. Since its launch during the 2023-2024 academic year, the platform has helped increase engagement inside the classroom.

"The student collects points through classroom participation, positive behaviour, homework and educational initia-

The initiative is part of the Ministry of Education's Digital Empowerment in Education Programme, which aims to strengthen digital skills and encourage innovation in government schools across Bahrain.

tives," he said. "As they earn more points, they progress to higher levels, while top performers are celebrated."

The platform also includes an online store where students can redeem rewards, as well as a space to showcase their projects and initiatives, encouraging creativity and innovation.

Built using programming languages including PHP, HTML, CSS and JavaScript, the platform also incorporates artificial intelligence tools to help improve coding and enhance its features. Cybersecurity measures have been integrated to ensure a safe digital environment for users.

## Verdict Delayed in Mother-Son Arson Case

79-year-old mother insists on pursuing the case despite reconciliation attempts

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The court postponed its verdict until June 15 in the case of a 48-year-old man accused of setting fire to his mother's home, after reconciliation efforts were firmly rejected by the 79-year-old victim.

During proceedings, the court attempted to settle the dispute amicably, but the mother insisted on continuing the case and pursuing a final ruling.

The incident dates back to April 9, 2026, when a fire broke out in the ground-floor living room of the shared family home. Civil Defence reports indicated significant damage and suggested the blaze was likely intentional.

In her testimony, the mother told the court that her son, who suffers from drug addiction, had threatened to burn the house after a dispute ear-

lier that day. She said she had earlier taken him to settle a phone bill despite financial difficulties, and later advised him to find work and avoid trouble, which allegedly triggered his anger.

She further stated that he returned home, repeated the threats, and prevented her from entering the house. Concerned for her granddaughter who was inside, she went to file a police complaint.

While at the police station, a neighbour informed her that a fire had broken out. She returned with officers to find the living room ablaze, though the fire was brought under control before Civil Defence teams arrived.

The mother estimated the damage at around BD 500, including repairs and damaged furniture.

The court will announce its verdict at the next hearing on June 15.