

Lawmakers Address Regional Risks

Parliamentary diplomacy stressed as key pillar of foreign policy



First Deputy Chairman Jamal Mohammed Fakhro and members of the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives with the European Parliament delegation

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Senior members of Bahrain's Shura Council discussed regional security developments and parliamentary cooperation with a European Parliament delegation on Tuesday, focusing on tensions linked to recent Iranian attacks in the region, according to an official statement.

The meeting, held with First Deputy Chairman Jamal Mohammed Fakhro, centred on strengthening legislative coop-

eration and reviewing regional and global political and military developments.

Lawmakers referred to "Iranian attacks" targeting Gulf Cooperation Council states and Jordan, saying the incidents posed risks to infrastructure, energy facilities and international shipping routes, including the Strait of Hormuz.

Shura Council members said the developments amounted to violations of international law and warned of their potential impact on global energy markets

and regional trade.

They also reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to national unity and coordination with international partners to maintain security.

Jamal Mohammed Fakhro highlighted Bahrain's parliamentary diplomacy efforts, stating that the legislative branch aims to support official foreign policy through dialogue and cooperation in line with the vision of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Members of both the Shura

Council and the Council of Representatives attended the meeting, which also covered broader efforts to expand international parliamentary partnerships.

The European Parliament delegation expressed solidarity with Bahrain, condemned attacks on regional states, and stressed the importance of respecting sovereignty and international law.

It also praised Bahrain's efforts to uphold stability and the rule of law amid regional tensions.

One-Day Housing Process

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Bahrain reduced the time required for housing allocation to just one working day after fully automating the process, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning said.



The ministry announced that the system is now entirely digital, linking housing allocation directly with electronic contract issuance to improve efficiency and speed up services.

Previously taking up to two days, the process is now completed within a single day because the procedures are fully automated. Under the new system, once a housing unit or plot is assigned, the applicant's address is automatically updated and the contract is issued digitally, eliminating the need for paperwork.

Housing and Urban Planning Minister Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi said the upgrade simplifies procedures, reduces steps, and saves time and effort for beneficiaries.

She added that re-engineering the process cut required documents by 50 percent and reduced approval steps by 25 percent, enhancing efficiency and transparency.

The move is part of wider government efforts to modernise public services and accelerate digital transformation. Authorities noted that they have documented more than 1,300 government services, redesigning around 800 based on public feedback, investor input and service evaluations.

Driver Gets 7 Years

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First High Criminal Court sentenced a man in his twenties to seven years in prison over a fatal crash on Zallaq Road that killed two cyclists and injured two others.

The court heard the defendant was speeding when he

lost control of his vehicle and struck a group of cyclists in the early hours of March 21, 2026.

He fled the scene without offering help, and investigations confirmed he possessed a psychotropic substance.

He was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, reckless driving, drug possession and use, and failing to assist victims.

BD7.5m Phase Complete

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Ministry of Works completed the first phase of infrastructure works in Wadi Al Buhair at a cost of BD7.5 million, covering road levelling and rainwater drainage linked to Tubli Bay.

Two more phases are in progress: the second is set to go to tender after design and funding approvals, and the third is nearing final design. Works will include roads, sewage networks,



Wadi Al Buhair

drainage, lighting and safety features.

Groundwater at the site is be-

ing managed through rainwater drainage pipes, with a long-term solution planned under the fi-

nal phase. Sewage coverage in the Southern Governorate has reached 82 percent, officials said.

Company Law Reform



Shura Council Financial and Economic Affairs Committee reviewed a draft decree-law amending the Commercial Companies Law, aimed at modernising the country's corporate legal framework. During a meeting on Monday, the committee, chaired by Khalid Hussein Al-Maskati, examined Decree-Law No. (38) of 2025, which proposes changes to provisions of the Commercial Companies Law issued under Decree-Law No. (21) of 2001. Members reviewed the House of Representatives' decision, its accompanying documents, and a legal opinion from the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee, which deemed the draft constitutionally and legally sound. The panel also discussed the proposal with legal and economic advisers before preparing its final report for submission to the Council's Bureau. (By Rehab Mohammad)

Why UTIs Are More Common in Summer

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Summer means travel, sunshine, and outdoor fun - but it also brings an unexpected rise in urinary tract infections (UTIs), and the cause is often misunderstood.

According to urologist Dr Mahmoud Sharaf, the issue is not stronger bacterial growth, as one might think, but a mix of environmental factors and daily habits that leave the urinary system more vulnerable.

UTIs occur when bacteria enter the urinary tract, causing symptoms such as burning during urination, frequent urges to urinate, and lower abdominal discomfort.

As the doctor explains, it is a simple cycle between the invad-



Dr Mahmoud Sharaf, Uro-Genital Surgeon, Endo-Urologist

ing organism, the urinary system (the host), and the resulting symptoms.

Speaking to TDT, Dr Mahmoud said, "Urine acts like a flowing river that helps flush bacteria out," adding that when this natural flow slows, the risk of infection increases.

"UTIs in summer are largely environmental and behavioral



UTIs in Summer

- Risk increases in summer due to dehydration and travel habits.
- Causes include low water intake, delayed urination, and limited restroom access.
- Symptoms: burning urination, frequent urge, lower abdominal pain, sometimes reddish urine.
- Diagnosis is confirmed only through urinalysis and urine culture tests.

rather than purely pathological." "Higher temperatures lead to increased fluid loss through sweating and breathing, often resulting in dehydration. This reduces urine volume and flow

- the body's primary defense against urinary infections. At the same time, concentrated urine can irritate the bladder lining, making it easier for bacteria to attach and multiply."

Heat and humidity also encourage bacterial growth around the genital area, especially in women, where moisture from sweating can increase colonization, added Dr Mahmoud.

Prevention

Speaking about reducing the risk of UTIs this summer, he advises maintaining regular hydration of around 2-3 litres of water daily, rather than waiting for thirst. The bladder, he notes, should not be treated as a storage tank but as a flushing system, so urine should not be held and should be passed every 3-4 hours. During travel, he recommends using the cleanest available restrooms, avoiding prolonged wear of wet clothing such as swimwear and opting

for breathable fabrics such as cotton.

"The fact is that Cranberry is for prevention and the myth is that Cranberry is for cure. Cranberry juice contains proanthocyanidins, which form a protective lining on the urinary bladder mucosa, reducing bacterial adhesion."

"Your best natural antibiotics in summer to avoid UTI are hydration, urine flow and hygiene," he said.

Globally, UTIs are a major health burden, with an estimated 400 - 450 million cases annually. They are far more common in females, with women being about 3.6 times more affected than men, and the risk increases after menopause. Around 50-60% of women experience at least one UTI in their lifetime, compared to 12-14% of men.