

# Bahrain, Azerbaijan to boost cooperation

## ● Exchanging expertise in using AI for parliamentary work

Baku

Bahrain and Azerbaijan, have discussed means of enhancing parliamentary cooperation and exchanging expertise.

This came as His Excellency Mohammed Ibrahim Al Sisi Al Buainain, Secretary General of the Council of Representatives, met with Farid Hajiyev, Head of the Civil Service and HR Department of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, at

the National Assembly headquarters.

They reviewed the longstanding relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Azerbaijan, emphasising that these ties are supported by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, and by their commitment to advancing cooperation on all levels.

Al Buainain highlighted the Council's efforts to develop partnership with the Milli Majlis, noting plans to expand cooperation in domains such as artificial intelligence for parliamentary work, digital archiving and smart legislative systems, and environmental sustainability.

He outlined the Kingdom's experience in becoming the first



H.E. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Sisi Al Buainain with Farid Hajiyev

parliament in the Middle East and Asia to gain ISO 14001:2015 certification as a Green Parliament, achieved under the guid-

ance of Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives.

The Azerbaijani side com-



**They reached an agreement on broadening cooperation through visits, joint projects and friendship groups to enhance political, economic and cultural ties.**

mended the strong parliamentary ties and underlined the importance of visits and insti-

tutional exchanges.

They also commended the role of Dr. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, in advancing multilateral parliamentary cooperation through the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network.

Discussions also addressed Bahrain's role in regional and international parliamentary forums, with the Milli Majlis valuing the Kingdom's contribution to coexistence, tolerance and cooperation on sustainable development and human rights.

The meeting concluded with agreement on broadening cooperation through visits, joint projects and friendship groups to enhance political, economic and cultural ties.

## Hajj registration opens

### ● More than 12,000 Bahraini citizens file preliminary applications within hours

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Registration for next season's Hajj opened on the official platform, and more than 12,000 citizens filed preliminary applications within hours.

About 67 licensed campaigns are competing for the 1447 AH-2026 season.

Initial applications run until 16 September, after which accepted applicants choose the campaign they wish to join.

The launch set off a rush of adverts across social media.

Operators pushed out short films, simple guides and offers on lodging, transport and hospitality.

New entrants have joined in, which has sharpened the contest for bookings.

Campaign owners say more than 25 operators may be unable to run trips this year given Bahrain's quota of 4,625 pilgrims.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Some struggled last season to reach the minimum of 90 pilgrims needed to operate, which explains the early push to secure names.

Marketing has shifted towards clear, youth-minded messages that spell out services, prices and accommodation locations.

Some operators are offering instalment plans aimed at lower-income pilgrims.

### Conditional cuts

Others trail steep conditional cuts, such as when four women register together with a permitted mahram, bringing the price down by more than 80 per cent. Some rely on social-media

personalities, while others prefer religious scholars to build trust.

Interest from citizens and residents is rising, with early reservations reported alongside last season's facilitation measures and service levels cited by many campaigns.

### Prices and schedules

With less than two weeks before applications close, prices and schedules are now public.

First departures are due on 14 May 2026 with returns on 31 May.

Announced prices vary by mode of travel and service tier, starting at about BD1,840 and rising above BD2,300.

## Training programme on endowments and AI

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The Kingdom of Bahrain held a specialised training programme on "Endowments and Artificial Intelligence," the first of its kind in the sector, organised by Ma'arif Business Services with the Sunni Endowments Directorate and Al Kooheji Charitable Foundation.

It was attended by 25 endowment leaders and technical experts from Gulf and Arab countries.

Shaikh Dr. Rashid bin Mohammed bin Futais Al Hajri, Chairman of the Sunni Endowments Council, emphasised using AI to improve and sustain endowment work.

### Applications

The programme covered AI applications in investment, asset management, resource development, marketing, governance, and ethics.

## Smile launches 12th edition of 'Kids Are Gold' successfully



Distinguished guests, organisers, children and other attendees at the event

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The "Smile" initiative, an affiliate of the Future Society for Youth that provides psychological and social support to children with cancer and their families in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has launched the twelfth edition of its annual awareness campaign "Kids Are Gold."

The ceremony took place on Tuesday, 2 September, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the initiative's headquarters in Um Al-Hassam, during a special event that highlighted the noble goals of the initiative.

The launch event featured the live creation of an artwork

in front of the audience, produced in collaboration with 20 children receiving cancer treatment.

Guided by the renowned artist Abbas Al Mosawi, the children contributed to painting a large golden ribbon as the final element of the piece, serving as a powerful symbol of the official launch of the campaign.

This moving artistic experience not only highlighted the creativity and spirit of the children but also underscored the initiative's dedication to blending art and innovation within its awareness efforts, ensuring the message is conveyed in a distinctive and impactful manner.

## ICRF Thirst Quenchers 2025



he Indian Community Welfare Association - ICRF Bahrain continue its annual summer awareness program - Thirst Quenchers 2025. Aligning with the Ministry of Labour's initiative to ensure a safe working environment during the sweltering three months, ICRF Bahrain distributed water, juice, laban, orange, apple and banana at the work site of Al Ghanim International, East Hidd Housing Project. This year the event is supported by the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, LMRA and IOM. Around 500 workers took part in the event. Mr Hasan Al Aradi - Head of Occupational Safety & Health Inspection from the Ministry of Labour joined the distribution and spoke about the support extended to the workers by the Ministry.