

Gulf States Push Closer Municipal Integration



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Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states are stepping up efforts to align municipal policies and practices as they work towards more integrated, sustainable and future-ready cities across the region.

The push was highlighted during the 42nd meeting of the Committee of Their Excellencies Senior Municipal Officials of GCC Member States. The meeting was held via video-conference under the chairmanship of Engineer Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

The meeting comes as Bahrain holds the presidency of the 46th session of the GCC.

Municipal officials and representatives from the GCC countries discussed ways to deepen cooperation, coordinate policies and expand the exchange of expertise and successful municipal practices.

Shaikh Mohammed stressed the importance of building on existing joint efforts to strengthen municipal work across the Gulf, while supporting greater integration and coordination between member states.

A major focus was placed on developing common legislative and regulatory frameworks, alongside closer coordination in strategic urban planning and the management of the urban environment.

The discussions also addressed the Gulf Building Code, municipal legislation and inspection mechanisms, as

well as the GCC Joint Municipal Action Plan for 2024-2030.

Smart city initiatives and municipal sustainability were among the other key areas examined, reflecting efforts by GCC states to adapt municipal services and urban planning to future requirements and emerging challenges.

The meeting also explored initiatives to increase the sharing of information, expertise and experiences among member states and strengthen cooperation with specialised organisations.



Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs at the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

Officials further discussed efforts to showcase GCC municipal development and achievements at regional and international forums, in addition to reviewing the outcomes of the joint municipal action plan.

Bahrain Prathibha Grandmasters Cup – Season 1 Set for September 11



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Pradeep Puravankara

The inaugural Bahrain Prathibha Grandmasters Cup – Season 1, an international chess tournament, will take place on September 11, 2026, at the Yousif Ahmed Abdulmalik Hall in Galali, organizers announced at a press conference held at the Prathibha Centre.

The event is jointly organized by the Bahrain Prathibha Manama Zonal Committee, the Bahrain Chess Federation (BCF), and Arjun's Chess Academy.

Open to international players registered with the International Chess Federation (FIDE) who possess a valid FIDE ID, the tournament will feature a fast-paced Rapid format played over seven rounds. Cash prizes and awards will be presented across multiple competition categories.

The tournament aims to cultivate local chess talent, expand the sport's reach across the Kingdom, and offer a com-

petitive venue for both local and international players.

Speaking at the press conference, Bahrain Prathibha officials highlighted the initiative as part of their ongoing drive to foster youth engagement in sports. Representatives from the Bahrain Chess Federation commended the organization's dedication to grassroots chess development and pledged full organizational support for the upcoming cup and future joint ventures.

Key figures attending the announcement included BCF Treasurer Redha Fathima, Organizing Committee Chairman N. V. Livin Kumar, Convener Manoj Paul, Arjun's Chess Academy Director Arjun, Prathibha Manama Zonal Secretary Rajesh Attachery, President Nubin Ansari, and Joint Convener Hridhya Renjith.

Organizers expressed optimism that the season opener will serve as a catalyst for expanding Bahrain's chess community and providing a dynamic venue for players of all skill levels and age groups.

New Youth Ambassadors Named



Dana Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi,



Nouf Jehad Al Kuwaiti



Dr. Jumana Ebrahim Al Jahrami

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The Ministry of Youth Affairs announced Dana Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi, Nouf Jehad Al Kuwaiti and Dr. Jumana Ebrahim Al Jahrami as the winners of the fourth edition of the Bahraini Youth Ambassadors programme. They completed the programme's stages, which aim to identify and develop young talents to represent Bahrain at regional and international forums.

Dana Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi, Nouf Jehad Al Kuwaiti and Dr. Jumana Ebrahim Al Jahrami were named this year's winners.

Minister of Youth Affairs Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi said the selection reflects the capabilities and talents of Bahraini youth,

praising the participants for their awareness, ambition and strong skills in dialogue, communication and engagement with international experiences.

She said these qualities would enable the winners to convey Bahrain's message and represent the aspirations of Bahraini youth at international forums.

Tawfiqi expressed pride in the achievements of Bahraini youth and their distinguished presence abroad, stressing that representing Bahrain carries a national responsibility that reflects the Kingdom's values and achievements while helping build bridges of communication with peoples and cultures around the world.

The minister highlighted the role of the Bahraini Youth Am-



Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs

bassadors programme as a national platform for identifying, developing and empowering promising young talents. She said the programme reflects Bahrain's continued commitment to investing in its youth and strengthening their role as partners in the Kingdom's development.

Diplomatic Academy Gains APSIA Membership

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The Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies has joined the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) as an affiliate member.

The Academy said the membership will strengthen international academic cooperation and expand partnerships with leading institutions specialising in diplomacy, international affairs and public

policy.

The move supports the Academy's mission to prepare qualified diplomatic cadres, promote academic excellence and enhance Bahrain's presence in global policy discussions.

Membership will also create opportunities to exchange expertise and knowledge with leading institutions worldwide. APSIA welcomed the Academy, highlighting its contribution to preparing the next generation of diplomats.



alBaraka

Invitation to the e-Ordinary General Assembly Meeting of Al Baraka Group B.S.C (Closed)

The Board of Directors of Al Baraka Group B.S.C (closed) (C.R No. 48915-1) is pleased to invite you to attend the e-Ordinary General Assembly meeting at 01:00 pm (Bahrain Time) on Tuesday September 29th, 2026 under the administration of Bahrain Clear company, in order to consider the agenda items, set below and pass appropriate resolutions regarding them. In the event that the quorum is not complete or a technical issue/glitch occurs during the meeting at the electronic platform, the second meeting of the General Assembly will be held electronically as per the below notes No. (9):

Ordinary General Assembly Meeting Agenda

- To approve the minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly meetings held on March 31st 2026.
- Approval of the recommendation of the Board of Directors to distribute cash dividends to shareholders registered at the date of September 28th 2026 at a rate of 1% of the issued share capital, with a value of US\$12.43 million, equivalent to US\$0.01 per share, subject to the approval of the relevant regulatory authorities.
- To discuss any urgent matter arises according to Article 207 of Commercial Companies Law No. 21/2001 and its amendments.

Notice: The Draft resolutions for the above items and the passing quorum for voting on each will be available electronically with the rest of the meeting attachments on Al Baraka Group and Bahrain Clear Company's website before sufficient time of the meeting.

All shareholders who intend to attend the meeting, or whomever they authorize, are kindly requested to register in advance to receive the invitation and the meeting link, by adhering to the required steps as per the following link: <https://eagm.bahrainclear.com/en/>

Notes:

- Registration of the attendance for the shareholders and proxyholders electronically will start 10 days prior to the meeting and shall close 24 hours before the meeting time by visiting the above link of Bahrain Clear.
- Holders of proxies (other than representatives of juristic persons) may not be the Chairman, Directors and employees of the Group (Article 203, Commercial Companies Law 21/2001, as amended).
- Adopting electronic voting exclusively in voting on all agenda items.
- Electronic copies of the meeting documents will be available on:
 - Al Baraka Group website (<https://www.albaraka.com/en/>)
 - Bahrain Clear website (<https://eagm.bahrainclear.com/en/>)
- For any other inquiries related to the General assembly meetings, please send an email to the Investor Relations at IR@albaraka.com or call the following numbers 00973 17541122 Ext: 360 Mr. Mohsin Dashti – Head of Operations & Support at Al Baraka Group.
- The meeting will be recorded electronically, in audio and video, for record-keeping purposes.
- We recommend you attend the e-meeting on your computer or laptop in order to have better quality service; Also, you have the option to attend the meeting using your tablet or smartphone (Mobile).
- It is not possible for the shareholder to change his/her vote after he/she has voted, and this is based on the resolution of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce No. (63) of 2021 regarding measures for meetings by electronic means and the conditions and controls of the electronic voting system in the general assembly of the joint-stock company.
- The Ordinary General Assembly Meeting shall be valid if attended by shareholders representing more than one half of the shares of the Company. If such quorum is not present, the meeting shall be valid with those present after half an hour from time fixed for the first meeting.

albaraka.com

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