

Gulf Unites Around the Digital Economy

Bahrain's Parliamentary Division brought together representatives of legislative councils from across the Gulf to explore stronger cooperation in the digital economy, with discussions focusing on legislation, technology, investment and cybersecurity.

The joint Gulf seminar, organised in cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), was held virtually on Tuesday under the theme "The Gulf Digital Economy: Legislation and Development of Technical Infrastructure, Enhancing Contribution to GDP, Stimulating Investment, and Strengthening the Safety of Gulf Society through Digital Platforms."

The seminar brought together representatives of the Shura, parliamentary, national and consultative councils of GCC member states to discuss ways to advance digital economic integration across the region.

Opening the seminar, Shaikh Sadiq Eid Al Rahma, Member of the Shura Council and Chairman of the Parliamentary Coordination and Foreign Relations Committee, welcomed the participants and conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the Speaker of the Council of Representatives and the Chairman of the Shura Council.

Al Rahma said the digital economy has become closely linked to the future of Gulf economies, particularly as rapid technological developments continue to reshape economic activity.



He pointed to the growing impact of artificial intelligence, data and digital platforms, stressing the need for legislative frameworks that can keep pace with technological change while supporting innovation and investment.

He also underlined the importance of protecting privacy and rights and building public confidence in digital services.

Bahrain's contribution to the seminar presented the Kingdom's experience in developing a legislative and strategic framework for the digital economy. It covered the Information Technology Crimes Law, Personal Data Protection Law and Electronic Transactions Law, alongside the National Digital Economy Strategy and National Cybersecurity Strategy.

The paper also highlighted Bahrain's initiatives in artificial intelligence and cloud computing, as well as the digital achievements of the Shura Council and Council of Representatives, including international awards



"Cybersecurity challenges do not stop at borders."
- Shaikh Sadiq Eid Al Rahma, Member of the Shura Council and Chairman of the Parliamentary Coordination and Foreign Relations Committee

and advanced global rankings in digital maturity.

Discussions also addressed the development and potential harmonisation of policies and legislation governing the digital economy, with participants putting forward initiatives and recommendations to strengthen cooperation among GCC states.

Interior Minister Hails Bahrain-India Ties



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Interior Minister General His Excellency Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa received Indian Ambassador Vinod Kurian Jacob as he concluded his diplomatic tenure in Bahrain.

His Excellency Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa,

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior for Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs, attended the meeting.

Shaikh Rashid welcomed the ambassador and praised the longstanding friendly relations between Bahrain and India, highlighting the strong level of cooperation and coordination between the two countries, particularly in

the security field.

The Interior Minister commended Ambassador Jacob's efforts and distinguished contributions to advancing bilateral relations across various areas, including security cooperation and coordination.

He wished the ambassador continued success in his future endeavours.

Gulf Tourism Cooperation Takes Centre Stage

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The Kingdom of Bahrain chaired a meeting of the Undersecretaries responsible for tourism in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as part of its presidency of the 46th session of the GCC.

Sara Ahmed Buhiji, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), chaired the virtual meeting, which was held in preparation for the 10th meeting of the GCC Committee of Tourism Ministers.

The meeting reviewed several agenda items, focusing on strengthening joint Gulf efforts to develop the tourism sector



across GCC countries and following up on the implementation of initiatives and programmes under the tourism sector support plan.

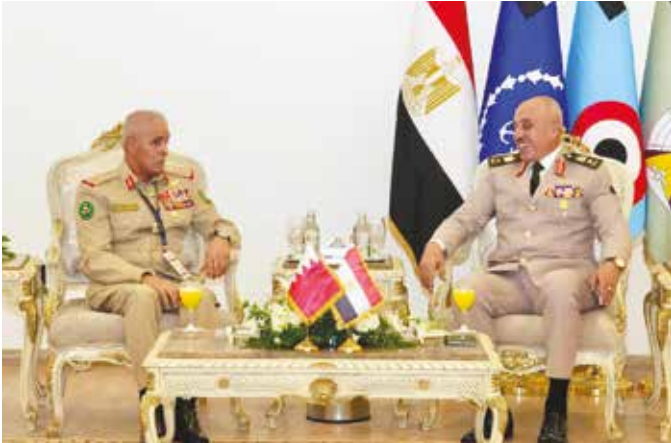
Discussions covered joint tourism promotion and media initiatives, as well as the development of the GCC Tourism Data Dashboard.

The meeting also reviewed joint promotional programmes

and marketing campaigns, the exchange of expertise and knowledge in tourism statistics and data, and the unified tourism guide licence initiative across GCC countries.

Other topics included the Gulf Tourism Capital initiative, international cooperation in the tourism sector, joint tourism activities and events, and guidelines for hotel classification.

Bahrain, Egypt Look to Deepen Military Cooperation



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Theyab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi attended the opening of the second edition of the El Alamein International Airshow (EIAS 2026), being held at El Alamein International Airport in the Arab Republic of Egypt/

On the sidelines of the exhibition, Lt. Gen. Al Nuaimi met Lt. Gen. Ahmed Fathy Ibrahim Khalifa, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

The meeting discussed strengthening and consolidating joint military cooperation and coordination between the Bahrain Defence Force and the Egyptian Armed Forces, as well as ways to further develop

bilateral cooperation in a manner that serves the interests of the two brotherly countries.

During his tour of the exhibition, Lt. Gen. Al Nuaimi reviewed the latest developments in aerospace, defence and space industries, including advanced systems, technologies and solutions showcased across the exhibition's pavilions.

He also received a briefing on the key products and modern technologies presented by major participating international companies and institutions, as well as efforts to advance aerospace and space industries in line with the latest technological developments in these fields.

Bahrain, UNFPA Boost Cooperation



Muneera Nofal Al Doseri, Executive Director of the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance, received Jocelyn Fenard, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Oman and Head of the Sub-Regional Office in the GCC. The two sides discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in promoting coexistence, tolerance and dialogue, and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest.

Bahrain, GDA Strengthen Energy Ties



Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dinah, Oil and Environment Minister and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs, received Gulf Downstream Association Chairman Hussein Ali Al Qahtani. The meeting discussed cooperation and expertise exchange in refining, petrochemicals and downstream industries, as well as preparations for the fourth International Downstream Conference and Exhibition (IDCE), scheduled to be held in Bahrain next year.

Finance Committee Reviews Equality

The Equal Opportunities Committee at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy held its third periodic meeting of 2026, chaired by Dr. Faisal Isa Hammad, Assistant Undersecretary for Competitiveness and Economic Indicators. The committee reviewed initiatives supporting equal opportunities, preparations for Bahraini Women's Day, and plans to strengthen gender balance and women's participation in national development.



Health Minister Bids Ambassador Farewell



Dr. Jaleela bint Al Sayed Jawad Hassan, Minister of Health, received outgoing Turkish Ambassador Dr. Ay e Hilal Sayan Koytak. The minister praised the ambassador's efforts to strengthen Bahrain-Türkiye cooperation, particularly in healthcare, while Koytak expressed appreciation for the support she received during her tenure and praised the strong bilateral ties.

GCC Tax Chiefs Advance Integration



Bahrain hosted the 17th meeting of the GCC Committee of Heads and Directors of Tax Authorities, chaired by Rana Ibrahim Faqeehi, Chief Executive of the National Bureau for Revenue. The meeting reviewed efforts to enhance tax systems, develop advanced digital mechanisms and unified legislation, and exchange best practices to support Gulf economic integration.