

Shura Council Session to Cover 12 Drafts, 4 Decree Laws

Judicial Reforms, Economic Amendments, and Major International Agreements

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The Shura Council will hold its 29th session of the fourth session of the sixth legislative term today, following Royal Order No. (14) of 2026, which provides for adjourning the session starting next Tuesday.

During the session, the Council will review 16 legislations, including 4 decree laws and 12 draft laws, referred to the committees of Legislative and Legal Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security, Financial and Economic Affairs, Services, and Public Utilities and Environment.

Judicial Amendments

The Council will discuss Decree Law No. (13) of 2024 amending Article (7) of the Judicial Authority Law, which seeks to classify nationality-related matters as acts of sovereignty, placing them outside the courts' jurisdiction.

It will also review Decree Law No. (38) of 2025 amending the Commercial Companies Law, allowing the use of modern communication technologies for meetings and voting, and permitting the establishment of single-shareholder closed joint-stock companies.



The agenda includes several agreements

- Accession to the Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information framework to enhance tax transparency
- An agreement with Pakistan on the transfer of sentenced persons
- A double taxation avoidance agreement with Saudi Arabia
- Accession to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
- Amendments to the GCC Unified Excise Tax Agreement



Energy and Economic Projects

The Council will also examine Decree Law No. (33) of 2025 concerning the concession agreement for the "Juba" and "Pre-Unayzah (Pre-'Uyaynah)" reservoirs in the Bahrain Field, aimed at attracting new invest-

ments in the oil and gas sector and strengthening national energy security.

Anti-Money Laundering

The session will also address Decree Law No. (39) of 2025 on

regulating fundraising for public purposes, aligned with developments in money laundering and terrorist financing methods, and in compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards.

Travel Ban Procedures

The Council will review amendments to the Civil and Commercial Enforcement Law, granting enforcement judges the authority to extend travel bans on foreigners without a fixed limit while restricting administrative powers when a judicial travel ban is issued.

It will also discuss a draft law establishing a judicial committee to review deportation or travel ban enforcement decisions, with the possibility of appeal before the High Civil Court.

Agricultural and Health

The Council will examine amendments to the Agricultural Banks Law to enhance legal protection for agricultural infrastructure and strengthen penalties for violations.

It will also discuss amendments to the Medical Practice Law, making closure and confiscation penalties discretionary rather than mandatory, and unifying penalties with related healthcare profession legislation.

The Council will also discuss amendments related to industrial zones, government procurement regulations, and consumer protection laws, aimed at enhancing transparency, improving regulatory oversight, and protecting consumer rights.

Debate on Ship Emissions Pact

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Shura Council is set to debate on Sunday a draft law that would allow the kingdom to join an international agreement aimed at reducing air pollution from ships.

Lawmakers will consider approving in principle Bahrain's accession to Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), originally adopted in 1973 and amended by later protocols, under Decree No. 7 of 2026.

The annex sets binding standards to curb air emissions from maritime transport, including rules on fuel quality, engine use and ship efficiency.

The Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee has recommended approval, saying the move would strengthen Bahrain's existing commitments under MARPOL, which it joined through Law No. 32 of 2005.

Benefit

The report noted that, as a coastal state with significant economic and environmental reliance on the sea, Bahrain would benefit from aligning its maritime regulations with international environmental standards.

It added that Annex VI would complement Bahrain's Maritime Law issued under Law No. 10 of 2022, particularly provisions related to marine environmental protection and pollution control.

The committee said the measure supports Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and national efforts to reduce emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, by incorporating the maritime sector into broader climate policies.

It also stressed that the annex has been widely adopted by International Maritime Organization member states, including China, Japan, Singapore, European Union countries, and Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait.

High-Level Jordanian Delegation Visits Bahrain

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The President of the Senate of Jordan, Faisal Akef Al-Fayez, arrives in the Kingdom of Bahrain today for an official visit aimed at strengthening parliamentary and bilateral relations between the two kingdoms.

The visit comes at the invitation of Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and includes a delegation, according to an official statement.

It takes place within the framework of "deep-rooted fraternal relations" between Bahrain and Jordan, which have continuously developed across political and economic



Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh



Faisal Akef Alfayez

fields. During the trip, Al-Fayez is scheduled to hold talks with Al Saleh on enhancing parliamentary cooperation, expanding coordination between the two councils, and exchanging legislative expertise.

Discussions are also expected to cover regional and Arab issues of mutual concern.

From bottle caps to artwork

School initiative links creativity with environmental awareness



Students show their eco-friendly projects

Ghadeer Alkumaish
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Students at Al-Malikiyah Primary Intermediate Girls' School are transforming recycled waste into creative artworks as part of a school initiative promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices.

The "Sustainable Creativity" project encourages students to reuse discarded materials and turn them into artistic pieces, highlighting recycling as a practical habit rather than a theoretical concept.

Among the participants, students Joud Ali Madan and Lujain Faisal Mansoor created artworks using everyday waste materials. Joud said she learned to reuse plastic bottle caps and transform them into visually meaningful art pieces, while Lujain worked with metal rings from soft drink cans to produce handmade accessories and jewellery.

Art teacher Kawthar Ali Ghareeb said the initiative helps develop students' creative thinking while strengthening awareness of environmental responsibility through hands-on learning.

Students Take Mic



Empowering the youth through podcast

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Bhavans Bahrain Indian School launched the first student-led podcast initiative among CBSE schools in the kingdom, titled "BIS After Bell."

The podcast aims to provide students a platform to share ideas, experiences and discussions while promoting communication, creativity and leadership skills.

The inaugural episode features a conversation between School Head Boy Shreyas Sreevalsan and outgoing Head Girl Darwina Manoj, reflecting on stu-

dent life, leadership experiences and memories at the school.

School officials praised the initiative as a milestone in student engagement and digital innovation.

Director Himanshu Verma described the podcast as a platform that empowers students through communication and leadership, while Principal Saji Jacob congratulated the students and mentors involved in the project.

The school said the initiative marks a new step in encouraging student voices and media excellence within the educational community.

Teen held for riding motorcycle without licence

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Bahrain's Family and Child Prosecution ordered the detention of a 17-year-old boy after he was caught riding a motorcycle without a driving licence, helmet, or registration plates in the Al Budaiya area, endangering his life and other road users.

The Public Prosecution said it received a report from the General Directorate of Traffic after a patrol stopped the teenager while carrying out road safety duties.

The suspect was referred for investigation, where he admitted to the charges. Authorities also found he had previously committed similar offences.