

# MPs Push for Multilingual Driving Lessons in Bahrain

TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

A parliamentary committee in Bahrain has approved a proposal aimed at offering driving training programmes in multiple languages, in a move designed to improve communication between instructors and learners and enhance road safety.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee endorsed the proposal, which MPs Waleed Al Doseri, Maryam Al Saegh, and Hasan Bukhamas submitted.

The initiative recommends making driving lessons available in widely spoken expatriate languages, including English, Urdu, Bengali, and Filipino, reflecting the linguistic diversity of Bah-



rain's population.

Lawmakers said the measure intends to reduce misunderstandings during both theoretical and practical driving lessons, particularly for non-Arabic speakers who may struggle to fully grasp instructions, traffic regulations, and road safety guidelines.

Committee members approved

the proposal unanimously, stating that it aligns with public interest and supports ongoing efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of driver education in the Kingdom.

They noted that language barriers continue to challenge many residents, sometimes limiting their ability to properly under-



Better understanding of traffic rules, reduced accidents, improved learner comprehension

stand traffic laws and respond correctly in real driving situations.

The proposal also encourages introducing multilingual instructors or developing tailored training programmes that would allow smoother communication between trainers and trainees inside driving vehicles.

MPs further stressed that improving comprehension during driving education could help reinforce safer driving habits, reduce road accidents, and ultimately protect lives on Bahrain's roads.

The proposal has now been referred to the government for further review and consideration for implementation.

## ISB Platinum Jubilee Chess Championship Begins Tomorrow

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Pradeep Puravankara



The second edition of the ISB@75 Chess Championship begins tomorrow, Friday, June 12, as part of the Indian School Bahrain's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, drawing strong participation from across the Kingdom.

Organised by The Indian School Bahrain in collaboration with Arjun's Chess Academy, the tournament has attracted around 150 players for the Open Category, along with eight CBSE schools competing in the Inter-School Team Event.

The championship features two main categories: the Open Rapid Chess Tournament and the Inter-School Team Event. The school team competition is

designed to promote balanced participation, with each under-14 team consisting of four players, including at least one boy and one girl. Entry for schools is free, while Open Category participation was set at BD 3.

For logistics and inquiries, organisers can be contacted via Chief Arbitrator Arjun Kakkadath (3319 0004), Convener Faisal Madappally (3339 4919), and Coordinator Shamshad (3929 1585).

## 18-Year-Old Mentalist Achieves Global Recognition

Multiple world record titles achieved while using mentalism to promote anti-drug and alcohol awareness

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Ghadeer Alkumaish

Eighteen-year-old mentalist Ashvath Shajith, originally from Kannur, Kerala, and currently residing in Bahrain, is gaining international recognition after earning multiple world record titles for his performances and awareness initiatives. With more than 45 national and international stage appearances, the young performer has built a reputation for combining psychology, illusion, and storytelling.

Ashvath's interest in mentalism began during the COVID-19 pandemic while attending online classes. "My journey into mentalism actually began back in the 8th grade, during the covid time and the era of online school," he said. After experimenting with basic magic tricks, he discovered mentalism and became fascinated by the art form. "Everything changed when I discovered mentalism.

I completely shifted my focus to this art form."

For Ashvath, performing is driven by passion rather than career ambitions. "Mentalism for me is a passion rather than a strict career choice. I simply love performing on stage, meeting new people, and using this art form to amaze audiences," he said.

His shows are designed to be immersive experiences. "My full-length stage show runs for about half an hour and I design it to be a deeply immersive, cinematic experience of an absolute emotional roller coaster," he explained. He describes his performances as a mix of suspense, comedy, audience interaction, and a dramatic



People often mistake it for a supernatural ability. In reality, it has nothing to do with the paranormal. It is purely a blend of psychology, magic, and illusion.

ASHVATH SHAJITH

finale. He noted that one of the biggest misconceptions about mentalism is that it involves supernatural abilities.

Among his achievements are record titles from the International Book of Records, Indo-World Book of Records, and America Book of Records. The records were awarded for a symbolic mentalism perfor-

mance in Kochi that appeared to transform alcohol into water. "We performed a highly symbolic act where we seemingly converted alcohol into water to deliver a powerful message: 'Say No to Drugs and Alcohol,'" he said. "Turning alcohol into water creates a powerful visual that grabs media attention. I used that spotlight to push a serious message."

Ashvath also received recognition from the India Book of Records at the age of 13 after identifying 106 dinosaur species in one minute.

Looking ahead, the young performer is working on his most ambitious project yet. "I'm currently scripting a massive, two-and-a-half-hour theater show designed to feel just like watching a movie," he said, promising an experience filled with "laughter, sadness, happiness, and intense mystery."

## Shura AI Innovation



Shura Council is set to launch "Sanad," an AI-powered platform designed to enhance legislative research and knowledge management, marking a major step in Bahrain's parliamentary digital transformation. The system will support lawmakers with faster access to legal data, research analysis, and smart summaries to improve decision-making and legislative efficiency. (By: Rehab Mohammad)

## 44 New Homes Under Government Land Program



The Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, Amina bint Ahmed Al Rumaihi, witnessed the commencement of concrete foundation work for a new housing project comprising 44 residential units in Salman City. The project is part of a wider plan to deliver 137 housing units under the Government Land Development Rights Programme. Omar Faisal Al Tamimi, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain First Real Estate Development Company, attended the launch ceremony along with several officials. Al Rumaihi said the project is part of the ministry's broader plan to deliver 137 housing units in Salman City through cooperation with the private sector. She stressed that such strategic partnerships help increase housing supply and expand options available to housing program beneficiaries, supporting national housing sector goals.

## Could Bahrain's Next Table Tennis Star Be Discovered in a Park?

Public Spaces May Hold Key to Wider Sporting Talent

TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

A simple idea is gaining attention among sports observers in Bahrain: installing table tennis tables in public parks could help uncover the Kingdom's next generation of talent.

While Bahrain has already produced national champions and regional medal winners in table tennis, access to regular playing facilities remains limited for many enthusiasts, with most opportunities found in clubs, private halls, or paid recreational centres.

Supporters of the idea argue that public parks and waterfront spaces could offer a new pathway for players who currently lack consistent access to training environments. Coun-



Public table tennis in Turkey



AI generated image showing how the idea could look if implemented at Zayed Town Walkway in Bahrain

tries such as China and Turkey already feature outdoor stone tables in public areas, where residents play freely and casually.

Advocates believe such spaces

could help bridge the gap between casual players and professional development. A player who begins in an informal park setting could eventually progress into club training

and competitive tournaments, strengthening Bahrain's talent pipeline.

Bahrain's table tennis success in recent years has highlight-

ed the sport's potential. The national men's and women's teams were crowned West Asian champions in 2024, while clubs such as Bahrain Club achieved

regional success by winning the Arab Club Championship in 2025.

However, observers also point to gaps in grassroots infrastructure and supporting services, including limited availability of dedicated table tennis equipment and specialized maintenance facilities in the local market.

The proposal suggests that expanding access through simple, durable outdoor tables could encourage wider participation, improve community engagement, and help identify emerging talent at an earlier stage.

If implemented, the idea could transform public parks into informal training grounds, where a casual evening game might one day lead to national representation.