

Bahrain puts AI in Space Spotlight

Kingdom urges guardrails for emerging tech

- AI reshaping space security
- Legal guardrails highlighted
- Bahrain backs cooperation

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Artificial intelligence is racing into orbit, and Bahrain is warning that without legal guardrails it could deepen the very risks it promises to solve.

That was the message from Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Asiri, CEO of the Bahrain Space Agency, as he addressed the UNIDIR International Space Security Conference 2025 in Geneva. He told global delegates that space safety now hinges on aligning advanced technologies with diplomacy and law - a role Bahrain is positioning itself to champion.

AI at the core

Al-Asiri stressed that emerging



technologies such as AI and quantum communications are reshaping the global debate on orbital security. While they can optimize satellite



Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Asiri, CEO of the Bahrain Space Agency

operations and improve decision-making, he said they also bring new vulnerabilities if not governed by shared rules.

Guardrails and cooperation

Sessions at the two-day conference tackled mounting threats from space debris, anti-satellite weapons, cyberattacks, and the growing overlap of civilian and military space use. Al-Asiri underscored that Bahrain's engagement is about

unifying perspectives, pressing for adoptable understandings, and safeguarding assets through cooperation.

Future-focused vision

He concluded that Bahrain's participation reflects its drive to build advanced national capabilities in space security and to promote frameworks that ensure outer space remains safe, peaceful, and sustainable for future generations.

Director in dock over BD192,000 embezzlement



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Picture for representation only

The hearing into a BD192,000 embezzlement case, in which a government director stands accused, will continue on 14 September.

The defendant is alleged to have stolen funds from the Ministry of Social Development and laundered part of the money.

Prosecutors allege that the defendant, while in public service, issued cheques in the names of individuals and withdrew the cash for personal use, seizing a total of 192,351 dinars and 242 fils. He is also accused of misappropriating cash and in-kind donations collected by the centre, including vouchers and Ramadan baskets, part of which were meant for social cases, staff bonuses, and centre events.

The case involves a second defendant, the owner of a labour-supply company, who allegedly helped falsify con-

tracts and company receipts. Prosecutors say the director agreed to pay a cleaner 520 dinars per month, but the work-

er received only 140 dinars. He is also accused of receiving Covid-19 wage-support funds without passing them on to staff.

Investigators highlighted the use of pre-signed blank cheques, which were later withdrawn by staff and deposited into the director's personal accounts. Financial analysis from January 2019 to July 2024 showed deposits and transfers into the centre's accounts of 78,188 dinars and 750 fils, with patterns inconsistent with his declared income.

Cheques issued by the director totalled 157,256 dinars and 542 fils. The forged documents were used to justify withdrawals and reimbursements, facilitating the alleged embezzlement. The second defendant is charged with participating in the forgery of cleaning-worker contracts and cash-receipt slips.



As part of Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam's 'Shravanam' Onam celebrations, singers Anushree, Nanda, Balram, and Sreerag from Kerala captivated the audience with a musical concert. The event saw a large turnout. BKS President P.V. Radhakrishna Pillai presented mementos to the sponsors of the 'Shravanam' Onam festivities. General Secretary Varghese Karakkal and 'Shravanam' Onam Celebration Committee General Convener Varghese George offered felicitations. The programme was hosted by Arts Convenor Riyas Ibrahim.



Pakistan Club Bahrain marks Pakistan Defence Day with celebrations

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The Pakistan Club in Bahrain celebrated Pakistan Defence Day with a vibrant gathering that brought together the Pakistani community in large numbers.

The event began with a cake-cutting ceremony led by the Chairman of Pakistan Club, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Bhatti, along with Executive Board members, coordinated by Ch. Ghulam Nabi Gujjar.

The ceremony symbolised unity and paid tribute to the sacrifices made for Pakistan's defence.

As part of the celebrations, a volleyball tournament was



organised, fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and joy among participants. At the

conclusion of the tournament, all participants were honoured with certificates in recognition of their enthusiastic involvement.

The ceremony was attended by Executive Board members of Pakistan Club, as well as a large number of Pakistani community

members, who came together to mark the day with pride and solidarity.