

Bahrain, Kuwait
sign loan deal
on electricity

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A loan agreement has been signed to finance the 220 and 66 kV electricity transmission network development project between the Government of Bahrain and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

This came as His Excellency Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, met with Waleed Shaml n Al Bahar, Acting Director General of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, during his visit to the Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by H.E. Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, President of the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA).

Shaikh Salman emphasised the longstanding relations between the Kingdom and Kuwait, which continue to develop in various domains under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Highness Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of Kuwait.

He also highlighted the commitment of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to enhancing comprehensive development and advancing infrastructure in line with urban and economic growth, supporting national aspirations and benefiting all.

Commitment

The Finance Minister commended Kuwait's commitment, through the Kuwait Fund, to enhancing cooperation in economic and social development.

Rights for all

Mandatory DNA tests proposed for children of unknown parentage

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Mandatory DNA tests for children of unknown parentage are before Parliament, with a central DNA database proposed to help match children to their biological parents and restore access to basic documents and services.

The measure would require testing as soon as a child is found, under the supervision of state bodies, and the results would be compared with records of missing persons and related cases.

The plan has been filed as a recommendatory proposal by MP Hassan Ebrahim and has been sent to the specialised committee.

Views

Relevant ministries are expected to submit their views before the Council considers the matter for a vote.

Under the text, the Ministries of Interior, Social Development and Health would design and run a mandatory DNA-testing system for all cases involving children of unknown parentage and establish a central registry to store results.

The proposal states that this may, in some instances, confirm identity and family ties and, in turn, unlock legal, social and human rights linked to name and status.

Ebrahim said the move draws on constitutional guarantees that speak to justice, social care, health and equal opportunity.

He said many children of unknown parentage spend their



1. PAGE 3 LEAD (Image used for illustrative purposes only).jpg



“The move draws on constitutional guarantees that speak to justice, social care, health and equal opportunity.”

- MP HASSAN EBRAHIM

Sharia-based rules, to help establish identity in some cases.

Identity

According to the submission, the aim is to move from care alone to a wider justice-based approach that recognises identity so that rights can be granted in full, eases psychological and social strain, and clears the way to official documents and ordinary daily life.

Procedurally, the file remains with the competent committee for study.

Once the ministries provide their assessments, the Council will decide on next steps.

Bahrain embodies ‘justice and reform’



H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa at the event
Kuwait City

His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, has emphasised that the wise reformist approach of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, “embodies the values of justice, fairness, and the preservation of human dignity.”

He made the statement while attending the 42nd Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Interior Ministers’ Meeting in Kuwait yesterday.

Heading Bahrain’s delegation, Shaikh Rashid conveyed the Kingdom’s appreciation to Kuwait for hosting the event, noting the “excellent organisation and continued commitment of the GCC Secretariat and Sheikh Fahad Al Yusuf Al Sabah, Chairman of the meeting, in ensuring effective preparation and follow-up.”

The Interior Minister highlighted Bahrain’s transformative initiatives in criminal justice, explaining that the Alternative Sentencing and Measures Law launched by HM the King represents “a qualitative shift from deterrence to reform and reintegration,” contributing to enhanced community security, lower recidivism rates, and greater opportunities for beneficiaries to reintegrate positively into national development.

Guide

Shaikh Rashid also presented Bahrain’s guide for implementing alternative sentencing and open prisons, expressing hope that it “would help advance rehabilitative criminal justice across the GCC,” and

called for strengthened Gulf security cooperation to tackle emerging challenges such as artificial intelligence-related crimes.

The meeting brought together Interior Ministers from GCC countries to discuss joint security strategies, including the Anti-Drugs Strategy, measures to combat money laundering, development of traffic systems, electronic exchange of fingerprints and deportee data, and the establishment of a unified Gulf rescue team.

Ministers also approved the next joint tactical exercise for security agencies and the Gulf Security Conference under the GCC Secretariat and decided to refer the issue of a unified GCC tourist visa to the Foreign Ministers.

Meeting

Bahrain was recognised during the meeting for the “Maan” Centre for Research and Training team winning first place in the Prince Nayef Award for Arab Security (First Class) for their study on “The Negative Effects of Social Media on the Gulf Family and Its Security Implications.”

Concluding his address, Shaikh Rashid affirmed Bahrain’s continued commitment to enhancing joint Gulf security cooperation and expressed the Kingdom’s aspiration to host the next GCC Interior Ministers’ Meeting.

“Our shared efforts strengthen regional security and contribute to the safety and well-being of our peoples,” he said.

The Bahraini delegation included the Ambassador to Kuwait, the Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry, and several ministry officials.

LMRA receives US Congress delegation



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) received a delegation from the US Congress, comprising members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. The delegation was briefed on Bahrain’s initiatives to promote the sustainability of labour market development efforts and safeguard the rights of all parties, most notably the enhanced Wage Protection System, and the development of the Regional Training Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons. The delegation also heard a detailed presentation on Bahrain’s efforts to combat trafficking in persons and the role of the Expat Protection Centre in providing comprehensive services, including preventive support, legal counselling, and shelter for victims or those at risk of exploitation or human trafficking.

Driver held for dangerous stunt



In response to a video circulating on social media, the General Directorate of Traffic confirmed that it had apprehended a driver and impounded his vehicle after he performed stunts and collided with another car, putting his life and the safety of others at risk. The Directorate stated that all necessary legal measures have been taken against the driver and reiterated the importance of adhering to traffic regulations to safeguard lives and property.

Woman acquitted in elevator assault case

● Court finds medical evidence insufficient

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Third Minor Criminal Court acquitted a woman in her fifties who was accused of assaulting her neighbour inside an elevator, after the court found the evidence insufficient and doubted the credibility of the incident.

In its reasoning, the court held that medical reports alone do not conclusively prove that an injury was caused by the accused, explaining that such reports can only serve as supporting evidence when corroborated by witness statements or other proof.

If a conviction relies solely on a medical report, the court noted, the judgment is flawed both in reasoning and in legal justification.

According to the case file, the Public Prosecution had charged the defendant with assaulting the victim and causing minor injuries, as detailed in the medical report, though the injuries did not result in illness or prevent the victim from performing her daily activities for more than twenty days.

During trial, lawyer Reem Al-Mahari, who represented the defendant, denied the accusations on behalf of her client and called for her acquittal, citing lack of intent.