

Observatory to check on lawmakers' performance

Project to document MPs' attendance, efforts to fulfil electoral promises

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TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

An initiative to monitor the performance of the parliamentarians including keeping a close eye on the attendance of MPs at sessions was launched yesterday.

Responding to the need to have independent civil institutions that transparently monitor the performance of Bahraini Legislative Council, the Bahrain



The House of Representatives has convened its first session.

Human Rights Watch (BHRW) has launched the initiative titled 'Bahraini Parliamentary Observatory'.

The initiative will monitor as well as document the performance of the representatives in a neutral manner.

Speaking to Tribune, BHRW

General-Secretary Faisal Fulad said the initiative aims to ensure that the Bahraini people can adopt a reference to the assessment and follow-up of the Council.

"The project aims to ensure the people in the Kingdom to exert the power of civil pressure on

the House of Representatives in the country in addition to monitoring the executive branch."

The project will also assess the MPs' performance in fulfilling their electoral promises. Documenting the attendance of the parliamentarians for the sessions will be also carried



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MR FULAD

out, he added.

"The society representatives may attend sessions to record the performance of committees. Other functions of the project include documentation of the quantitative contributions of each MP during his/her attendance at the sessions, monitoring the website of the House of Representatives, monitoring all media as well as the proposals of the laws submitted to the House of Representatives and its im-

portance.

"The initiative also includes monitoring draft laws, discussions and voting on bills and monitoring the activities of the external and internal committees. The role will also include overseeing the activities of the House of Representatives and the non-subordination of the executive authority. We will also check on lawmakers' response with regard to addressing grievances faced by his voters whether he/she has an office to communicate with," the BHRWS stated.

The initiative will also cover the position of the Council against corruption and the reports on financial and administrative control, the Council's position on the retirement fund, pensioners' money, the additional tax law and the policy of austerity, the Council's position on general budget, on freedoms and human rights in the Kingdom and against terrorism and extremism, the BHRWS added.

Bahrain condemns France shooting

Manama

Bahrain condemned the shooting incident which took place in Strasbourg, France, and resulted in the death and injury of several people.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain affirms the solidarity of the Kingdom of Bahrain with the French Republic in its efforts to counter terrorism and extremism and strengthen its peace and stability," said

the ministry's statement issued today.

The ministry expressed its deep condolence to the family of the victims, wishing those injured a speedy recovery. It also reiterated the Kingdom's firm stance in rejecting all forms of violence, extremism and terrorism.

The bustle of holiday shopping gave way to a lockdown in the French city of Strasbourg on Tuesday after a gunman killed at least three people and wounded 11 others in a suspected terrorist attack, according to police.

AMA School holds finale of leadership programme

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The Middle School Department of AMA International School held the finale of Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) at its campus.

Dr Somaya Al Jowder, the chief guest; gave an inspirational talk to the future leaders. Fatima Fakhro was the guest of honour.

The programme was conducted by Aysha Shafiq as the co-ordinator of the YLP, Jhubelyn A Catumber, and Falak Sheer as the assistant co-ordinators of YLP Pakistan Community Toastmasters led by Najeeb Razzaq.

The programme include speech, debate and table topic contests.

All the 13 participants of this

club have put an enormous effort and prepared for their final performances, the organisers said.

Ali Hassan Hussain with the speech titled "Greatness" was placed the champion (gold medallist) for speech contest, while Yousif Ajoor was the second place (silver medallist) and Czyrel Daniel Cunanan got the third place (bronze medallist).

In the debate contest on the topic "Young children should have smartphones", the proposing team earned the victory. The members of the proposing team were Ahmed Aqeel Alnuwain, Mohamed Hassan Hussain, and Mohamed Rohail. For the table topic contest, Krish Mehra carried the day by bringing home the gold medal.

Samia Mirza, the principal of middle school thanked the guests, students' parents and teachers for their contributions towards the success of the programme.

The Youth Leadership Programme is a programme organised by the toastmasters international; that aims to develop leadership, speaking and communication skills.



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