

## Bahrain, Turkmenistan hold third political consultation meeting



Dr Shaikh Abdullah with Matiyev  
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The third round of political consultations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Turkmenistan was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

It was headed by the Ministry Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Berdiyaz Matiyev.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed strong relations of cooperation and friendship between the two countries and means to enhance them through the exchange of official visits and the activation of more than 13 signed agreements and memoranda of understanding for cooperation in the political, economic, social, cultural, scientific, technical and sports fields.

It also spotlighted joint coordination in regional and in-



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ternational forums within the framework of common concern to consolidate the values of tolerance dialogue, promote regional and international security and peace and support sustainable development.

# From 'empowerment' to Kingdom's progress

Speaker Zainal: Bahraini women have reached the highest leadership positions

● Bahrain's parliamentary delegation visiting US from June 12 to 17

Washington

Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bint Abdullah Zainal has highlighted the transition of Bahraini women from empowerment and advancement to progress in all fields, thanks to the unlimited support of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and to the motivational environment.

She was speaking in an open debate hosted by Wilson Center on Washington which was attended by US politicians and researchers.

Zainal indicated that Bahraini women have achieved an increasing presence in the legislative branch and they now represent 19% of the members in the Shura and Representatives Council, including the first woman to hold the position of Speaker through an open and transparent electoral process.

The advanced institutional structure and legislation has consolidated the principles of justice, competitiveness and equal opportunities for all, which culminated in Bahraini women reaching the highest leadership positions, she said.

Women's contributions to the development process as well



Speaker Zainal discussing major issues at the event

19%

Percentage of Bahraini women as members in the Shura and Representatives Council.

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- SPEAKER FAWZIA BINT ABDULLAH ZAINAL, COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

as their active role in making crucial national decisions date back to the 1930s when they participated in the municipal elections.

They also had an influential role in the early 1970s in asserting the Arab identity of Bahrain as witnessed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, she added.

Zainal touched on the qualitative efforts led by HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of HM the King and President of the Supreme

Council for Women, through a wide drive that coincided with the launch by HM the King of the comprehensive development process, an active field presence led by HRH, and creative initiatives.

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dom,” she said.

One of the important lessons learned is the foresight of HRH Princess Sabeeka who refused the idea of quota as a basis system for women to enter the political fray and stressed the need for women to rely on their own capabilities to win the honor of serving the nation, she said.

Such attitudes have stimulated women to build on their strengths, enhance their capabilities, and confirm their aptitudes to achieve progress and success.

## Safety campaign for workshops and buildings



The General Directorate of Civil Defence has organised a safety campaign for workshops and buildings in all governorates. The campaign included inspection visits to ensure that they follow safety conditions. Individuals and business owners were urged not to store flammable items in hot areas and to ensure the safety of electricity connections.

## COURT STORIES

### Banker to serve three years in jail for embezzling wife's money

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The Cassation Court has upheld the punishment issued against a Bahraini banker who took advantage of the authorities given to him by embezzling money from his wife's account.

The defendant was earlier sentenced to three years behind bars, which was also confirmed by the High Appeals Court.

The couple reportedly had disagreements, and the husband

resolved to avenge them by taking money from her account. The woman uncovered her husband's wrongdoing and filed a complaint against him.

The defendant has already been fired by the bank for other reasons, and she revealed that he would bring to their home some papers to make her sign them when she had some transactions to make.

However, she suddenly found out that several transactions

were made without her approval, including the withdrawal of BD1,800.

The bank investigated the matter and discovered that the husband was behind that.

**Wrongdoing**

The husband denied any wrongdoing, stating that everything was done with her consent.

“I was working in the bank for 10 years before I was dismissed.

My wife was the one who would request me to do these transactions. She would ask me to bring the paperwork and sign them. On some occasions, she would come to the bank and do everything on her own,” the defendant told the Public Prosecution.

An expert in forgery was assigned and confirmed that some of the submitted forms were filled by the defendant. The defendant was accused of forgery and embezzlement.

### Cassation Court upholds seizure of BD250,000 from GCC national

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The Cassation Court upheld the decision to take BD250,000 from a GCC national who arrived in the Kingdom without disclosing the amount in his possession.

The defendant's action violated the provisions of Bahrain's Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Law, as well as a Ministerial decision regarding the disclosure of funds in customs departments, because he did not reveal the

amounts of money in his possession when questioned by a customs officer.

He was arrested at the King Fahad Causeway after the money was found hidden in his car. His car was searched after he was asked to disclose the money and valuables that were in his possession.

As a result, the suspect was sent for trial, and the course of the first instance ordered the confiscation of the money, and this was confirmed by the Appeals and Cassation Courts.

### Asian heroin smuggler's life sentence is affirmed

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The High Appeals Court upheld the life sentence of an Asian man convicted of attempting to smuggle heroin into the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Asian defendant is said to have swallowed 50 capsules of heroin and stored them in his stomach, but confidential communications that were shared with the Kingdom's authorities at the airport played a key role in capturing him.

Customs officials were al-

ready alerted of his arrival and his plans to smuggle the drugs into the Kingdom. He already appeared scared while passing the check-in gates, before he was immediately ordered to be thoroughly searched.

The man was X-rayed and the drugs were found to be stuffed in his stomach. He was given special medicine to throw out the capsules, and he injected 50 capsules.

The suspect admitted to his crime, stating that he was paid to deliver the task.