

Shared strength

When citizens and institutions unite, security becomes a collective achievement

Shura committee hails community partnership as pillar of security and stability

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Community partnership has become a fundamental pillar of security and stability.

It reflects the integration between state institutions and citizens and demonstrates the maturity of national awareness and society's ability to positively confront challenges.

This was affirmed by the Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security Committee at the Shura Council, chaired by Dr. Ali bin Mohammed Al-Romaihi.

The committee noted that this approach has been strengthened by the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, which have established a firm path for strengthening

national unity and promoting partnership between the state and society to safeguard national achievements and ensure sustainable security and stability.

Support

Marking Community Partnership and National Belonging Day, celebrated annually in Bahrain on March 18, the committee praised the continued support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, in translating the Royal directives into practical programs and initiatives that enhance community participation and reinforce the role of citizens as key partners in development.

The committee also expressed its appreciation for the vital role played by the Ministry of Interior, led by Minister of Interior, His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, in strengthening the concept of community partnership through modern security policies based on openness, communication with the public, and initiatives aimed at raising



Dr. Ali bin Mohammed Al-Romaihi



The Kingdom marks Community Partnership and National Belonging Day annually on March 18.

awareness and strengthening trust between security agencies and the community.

In this context, the committee praised the national campaign "Bahrain is Good... Because of You" and the "Ma'an (Together)" initiative as leading national models that promote social responsibility, strengthen respect for the law, and encourage cooperation among all segments of society.

Engagement

The committee added that the strong public engagement with these initiatives reflects the high level of awareness and national belonging among Bahraini society, which has consistently demonstrated its ability to unite and cooperate with state institutions in various circumstances.

It further noted that citizens' awareness and their responsible response to the Ministry of Interior's messages during the current regional developments represent a positive example of community partnership and enhance the country's ability to address challenges effectively within the framework of strong national unity.

Tribute for Sarah

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A minute's silence and the recitation of Al Fatiha opened Parliament's sitting yesterday after MP Zainab AbdulAmeer asked the chamber to honour Sarah Abdulhameed Dashti, who died after an Iranian strike hit a residential building in Seef District before dawn.

Rising on a point of order, AbdulAmeer said: "Bahrain lost its daughter, the martyr Sarah Dashti."

She asked that the sitting begin with "a minute's silence and the recitation of Al Fatiha for the soul of the martyr", praying that God would "envelop her in His vast mercy and accept her among the martyrs".

She also asked for Dashti's name to be entered in the official minutes, saying it should be "immortalised in the record of this homeland".

Voice

Parliament, she said, is "the voice of the people, the voice of her bereaved family, and the voice of this homeland, which lost its daughter".

Sarah Abdulhameed Dashti, 28, died after an Iranian strike hit a residential building in Seef District, in an attack that drew grief and sympathy across Bahrain.

AbdulAmeer ended her remarks with a prayer that God would protect the Kingdom of Bahrain and preserve its security and stability under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Proposal calls for Gulf Union support

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A proposal calling for backing for the Gulf Union project has been put forward by MP Mohammed Al Rifai, who said it would lead to a steadier and more prosperous future for the peoples of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

He said the GCC, since its founding in 1981, had made clear gains in the economy, security and political coordination. But he argued that the strain and shifts facing the region now call for a move beyond cooperation and towards union, in a way that would deepen Gulf integration as a whole.

Al Rifai said Bahrain's National Action Charter had already laid down the case for closer Gulf integration, adding that the security of the Gulf

states forms one shared system that cannot be split apart.

The lawmaker said this gives a national and constitutional footing to any move towards a Gulf Union.

He said the project would bring a range of gains.

These include stronger collective security through a shared defence system, a firmer Gulf economy through unified markets and easier movement of trade and investment, and greater weight abroad through a single political stance on regional and world affairs.

He ended by saying the Gulf states have the historic, cultural and economic means needed to make such a union possible, and called for support for the plan as a key step towards a stronger and steadier future for the region.

Posting sensitive photos online sends defendants to court

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

Several defendants have been referred to criminal trial after allegedly photographing and publishing images of sensitive sites that are prohibited from being photographed, according to the Head of the Terrorism Crimes Prosecution.

The Public Prosecution said the suspects shared the images on social media, revealing information and details related to vital locations, at a time when the Kingdom is facing what officials

described as Iranian attacks on its territory.

Authorities stated that such actions could harm the country's national security.

Reports

The case began after the Public Prosecution received reports from the Cybercrime Division of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security.

The reports indicated that several social media accounts had posted photos of sensitive sites, including locations target-

ed in the recent attacks as well as other strategic areas.

Investigations conducted by the authorities led to the identification of the suspects, who were later arrested and questioned by prosecutors.

The Public Prosecution ordered their pretrial detention pending the investigation before referring them to criminal court.

Directives

In a statement, the Head of the Terrorism Crimes Prosecution stressed that official directives

issued by the competent authorities are legally binding and strictly prohibit photographing or sharing images of vital sites, military or security measures, or any information related to ongoing operations during the current circumstances.

He also urged the public to act responsibly when using social media, especially during the exceptional conditions facing the Kingdom, warning that any violation of these regulations or actions that could undermine national security will be met with strict legal measures.

Vocational training law draft amendment

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Services Committee at the Shura Council, chaired by Dr. Jameela Mohammed Redha Al Salman, continued discussing a draft law proposing the addition of a new article (Article 16 bis) to Law No. 17 of 2007 on vocational training, based on a legislative proposal submitted by the Shura Council.

The proposed amendment aims to encourage large employers to contribute to national efforts to make Bahraini citizens the preferred choice for employment.

It would require large companies to provide training opportunities for university graduates within their establishments, helping them gain suitable employment and contributing to efforts to reduce unemployment.



Shura Council Services Committee members hold online discussion

The proposal also seeks to raise awareness among new graduates entering the labor market about the importance of working in the private sector and to support the role of the relevant ministry in strengthening employment policies and managing unemployment rates.

During the same meeting, the committee also continued reviewing three draft laws proposing amendments to Article 41 of the Military Retirement Law issued by Decree No. 11 of 1976, Article 87 of Law No. 13 of 1975 regulating pensions and retirement benefits for government employees, and Article 90 of the

Social Insurance Law issued by Decree-Law No. 24 of 1976.

The draft amendments propose increasing the marriage grant given to widows or pension beneficiaries to an amount equivalent to 24 months of their entitled pension, instead of the current 18 months, with a minimum of BD1,000.



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MPs yesterday approved an urgent proposal calling for a temporary waiver on fees charged on shipments arriving through Bahrain's ports, after supporters said local firms were being hit by higher sea freight costs and new charges linked to regional strain.

The proposal was put forward by MP Hassan Ebrahim Hassan, First Deputy Speaker Abdulnabi Salman, Mamdouh Al Saleh, Hisham Al Ashiri and Dr Mahdi Al Shuwaikh.

They urged the government to grant a time-limited exemption on incoming cargo and goods during the current peri-

od to help Bahraini companies and keep supply lines working.

Costs

Supporters said firms were facing extra costs from war-risk charges, route-change fees and added transport bills when consignments were diverted through other ports before reaching Bahrain.

They warned that the rise in freight, transport and storage costs was likely to feed through to prices in the local market.

Ebrahim said shipping firms had recently imposed charges "that were not previously in place", including war-risk fees and charges tied to changes in shipping routes.