

Parliament to Review Arab Energy Organisation Reforms

- Scope expanded to cover all energy sectors

- Judicial authority to be removed

- Kuwait to remain headquarters

Mohammed Darwish
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Parliament is preparing to debate a draft law that would approve major amendments to the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries agreement, including renaming it, expanding its mandate, and restructuring its legal framework.

The proposed changes would rename the body the Arab Energy Organisation and widen its scope to cover all energy sectors, rather than just petroleum.

The draft removes the organisation's judicial authority, revises its governance system, and introduces a new dispute resolution mechanism starting with mediation and moving to arbitration. Kuwait would re-



Ahmed Al Musallam, Speaker of Parliament



Talal Al Mannai, Shura Council member

main the headquarters, and the body would gain wider legal status and operational privileges.

Despite the reforms, Bahrain's annual contribution will remain fixed at BD210,000. The bill also repeals earlier legislation linked to the organisation's judicial protocol.

Housewives Over 40 May Qualify for Social Aid

A draft amendment to Bahrain's Social Security Law, which proposes including married housewives aged 40 and above in the social assistance system, is set for parliamentary discussion.

The bill defines eligible housewives as women without sufficient income, aiming to improve living standards and recognize their family role.

- Seeks to broaden and diversify the national economic base.

- It cites regional best practices

- Saudi Arabia's model that links public procurement with local content.

- Updates legal terminology by replacing the minister's title with "minister concerned with industry affairs."



Parliament in session

The government has warned the proposal could weaken need-based assistance rules, create financial strain, and conflict with existing family support laws.

Boost for Bahraini Products in Government Spending

A Shura Council proposal aims

to strengthen Bahrain's industrial sector by increasing the use of local products in government tenders and public procurement.

The draft law introduces an official list of national products and allows local content requirements in state tenders, subject to Cabinet approval.

Sponsors say the move will

reduce import dependence, strengthen supply chains, and expand opportunities for Bahraini SMEs and workers.

The proposal aligns with Bahrain's Industrial Sector Strategy 2022-2026 and draws inspiration from regional models that link public spending to domestic production.

Key Laws Under Shura Review

- Amendments to Central Bank law

- Tougher penalties proposed

- Disability employment quota

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The Shura Council will discuss key legislative and economic matters in its 27th session on Sunday, including amendments to financial regulations, an international tax agreement, and a proposal on disability employment quotas.

The Council will first examine a decree-law amending Article 161 of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law. The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee has recommended approval, noting that the changes align Bahrain's framework with updated international standards,



Shura Council

particularly FATF requirements on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

The amendment also strengthens regulatory oversight and introduces tougher penalties, including imprisonment and fines of up to BD1 million, aimed at improving compliance and financial system integrity.

In another item, the Council will review a draft law approving a double taxation avoidance agreement between Bahrain and Jersey. The deal aims to elimi-

nate double taxation on income and prevent tax evasion, while boosting investment cooperation and improving transparency between tax authorities.

The committee endorsed the agreement, highlighting its role in supporting economic growth and attracting investment, noting that Bahrain already has 49 similar agreements in force worldwide.

The Council will also debate proposed amendments to the disability employment law,

which seeks to increase the hiring quota for persons with disabilities from 2% to 4% in establishments.

However, the Services Committee rejected the proposal in principle, stating that current laws already ensure sufficient employment opportunities and that the main challenge lies in enforcement rather than legislation. It also cited audit findings showing widespread non-compliance with existing quotas across the private sector.

Used Fake Signatures to Resign Workers

Rehab Mohammad
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- African jailed, fined

An African defendant has been sentenced to five years in prison, fined him BD5,000, and ordered his deportation after serving his sentence in a case involving forged electronic resignations of Bahraini workers.

The court also ordered the confiscation of forged documents used in the scam, which targeted five Bahraini employees allegedly misled into sharing mobile verification codes.

According to case details, the defendant—a security company supervisor—deceived workers by telling them the codes sent to their phones were for work-related transfers. Instead, the codes were used to electronically submit resignation forms in their names without consent.

The victims, employed under a private company con-

tracted to a government entity, later discovered they had been resigned without approval and filed complaints.

One worker said he was called to the company after his contract ended and, due to limited English skills, unknowingly shared the verification code sent to his phone. He later learned it was used to process his resignation, resulting in job loss and unpaid entitlements.

Another worker realized the message indicated a resignation form and refused to approve it, later reporting the incident to authorities.

A Ministry of Labour official confirmed that resignation submissions were received after the contracts ended, but suspicions arose when workers denied voluntarily resigning, prompting an investigation.

The Public Prosecution charged the defendant with forging electronic signatures, submitting false resignation documents, and unlawfully using them in official labour system procedures.



Jassim Al Issa, lawyer

Shop Eviction Ordered in BD5,400 Rent Case

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A court has ordered a company to vacate a rented shop and pay BD5,400 in overdue rent after failing to pay rent from January 2024 to March 2026.

The case was filed by four landlords, who also sought eviction, recovery of unpaid

rent, and legal costs. The property was leased at BD200 per month.

Court records showed the company did not respond or attend hearings, and failed to prove rent payments. The court therefore confirmed BD5,200 in arrears, plus BD200 for March 2026, bringing the total to BD5,400.

The court also ruled that the

company must hand over the premises and pay 1% monthly interest on the unpaid rent.

However, it dismissed claims against two individuals linked to the company, stating there was no legal basis for personal liability.

The lease was terminated and eviction ordered after the court found clear non-payment for more than two consecutive months.

Mulberry Season Ends

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The Bahraini mulberry season for 2026 came to a vibrant close after two exciting days on April 16 and 17 at the Farmers Market in Hoorat Aali, where it drew strong crowds of citizens and residents celebrating one of

the Kingdom's most loved seasonal fruits.

The atmosphere was filled with energy, fresh produce, and unique experiences that highlighted the richness of local agriculture.

Visitors enjoyed a wide variety of mulberry-based treats, including mulberry ice cream, and fresh mulberry juice.