

Bilateral aviation

Shura Council set to ratify milestone Bahrain-Kyrgyz air services agreement on Sunday

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A Bahrain-Kyrgyz air services deal signed in Manama on 21 April 2025 goes before the Shura Council on Sunday, with a vote due on the bill needed to bring it into force.

Members will consider a draft law to ratify the agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Council of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic on air services, attached to Decree No. 35 of 2025.

The Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee has advised backing the bill.

It said the text does not conflict with the Constitution and must be issued by law to take effect in Bahrain under the second paragraph of Article 37.

Preamble

The draft law has a preamble and two articles. The first provides for ratification of the agreement; the second is an im-

plementing provision.

The agreement itself runs to a preamble, 27 articles and an annex that lists the routes to be served by carriers named by both sides.

The committee said the text grants standard traffic rights, including overflight and the right to stop in the other party's territory for non-commercial purposes.

It gives each side the right to name air transport enterprises to operate the agreed services, and to grant operating authorisations under stated conditions.

Pricing is addressed through fare rules that allow designated airlines to set fares on commercial grounds, while reserving limited scope for intervention in defined cases.

Capacity rules provide for fair and equal chances for designated airlines, with services tied to public demand and with enough seats and space for passengers, cargo and mail.

Other provisions apply each country's laws and rules to designated airlines, passengers,



Dr Ali Al Rumaihi, Head of Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee

crew, baggage, cargo and mail.

The agreement also deals with mutual recognition of airworthiness certificates and licences issued or validated by either side, and sets out cases where a party may refuse recognition, including where documents are issued for its own nationals by the other party or a third state for flights over its territory.

The text includes a clause al-



Safety and security provisions allow either party to seek talks on safety standards relating to crew or aircraft, and describe follow-up steps after checks.

lowing either side to restrict flights over its territory or landings at its airports on a temporary basis, with immediate effect, during emergencies or for reasons linked to public security.

Tax

It also covers customs duty and tax exemptions in line with the Convention on International Civil Aviation, known as the

Chicago Convention.

Safety and security provisions allow either party to seek talks on safety standards relating to crew or aircraft, and describe follow-up steps after checks.

The agreement also requires both parties to protect civil aviation from unlawful interference and to act under the treaties and protocols on aviation security to which they are parties, including providing help to prevent unlawful seizure of aircraft and other unlawful acts, and setting procedures for dealing with incidents or threats.

There are clauses on the security of passports and other travel documents, and on dealing with inadmissible, deported and undocumented passengers, with reference to recommended measures under the Chicago Convention.

The agreement also lists conduct that may be treated as unfair competition and sets out a process for aviation authorities to seek consultations and, if needed, take the matter into the dispute process.

Shura Council to vote on bill for new private school rules

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More than 90,000 students in Bahrain's private schools are covered by a draft law due before the Shura Council on Sunday, after the Services Committee backed the text.

The bill, attached to Decree No. (60) of 2025, would replace the current rules for private educational institutions and separate them from the legal framework that still governs private training institutions.

In its report, the Services Committee said it was asked to study the draft and report back after the Shura Council Chairman, Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, referred it for review.

The committee recommended approval in principle and supported the articles as submitted.

As described in the report, the draft runs to 36 articles and covers definitions and aims, licensing, management and operation, duties and bans linked to study programmes, the financial system.

Bahrain TV and radio to expand airtime for local culture

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Airtime for Bahraini culture is being expanded across Bahrain TV, official radio stations and the ministry's digital platforms, the Minister of Information, His Excellency Dr Ramzan Al Nuaimi, has told Parliament in a written reply to Dr Maryam Al Dhaen.

H.E. Dr Al Nuaimi said cultural, heritage and arts material is carried across the yearly programme plan for Bahrain TV, with space also given in daily shows and news bulletins to cover cultural events and arts initiatives.

He cited television programmes including 'Shams Al Bahrain' and 'Masa Al Khair', and radio shows such as 'Sabah Al Khair Ya Bahrain', as regular outlets used to feature cultural

activity.

Coverage

The Minister added that coverage also extends to Ministry of Culture programmes and wider community events.

H.E. Dr Al Nuaimi said the Ramadan 2025 schedule included cultural content within a cycle that comprised 28 religious, social and cultural works.

Alongside that, he said the ministry airs social and national programmes on folk heritage and stories from Bahraini society, with regular radio and television slots that profile Bahraini writers and local cultural output.

He also referred to live coverage of cultural events across the governorates.

Dr Al Nuaimi said the ministry allocates recurring space to Bahraini arts.



H.E. Dr Ramzan Al Nuaimi



MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen



“As part of the Ministry of Information Strategy 2022-2027, it is also working on its digital tools and widening the reach of national content across platforms, including steps to strengthen the presentation of Bahraini identity and make cultural material easier to access for audiences inside and outside Bahrain.”

— H.E. DR RAMZAN AL NUAIMI, MINISTER OF INFORMATION

The Information Ministry is working with local cultural bodies, including clubs, societies and centres, through weekly co-operation that includes messages and interviews on radio and television programmes.

This includes folk arts and performances by national bands, coverage of art exhibitions, and support for theatre through reports, interviews and guest appearances.

He added that traditional crafts are featured through programmes and field reports, alongside a range of radio and television programmes focused on Bahraini arts, heritage, iden-

tity and music.

The Minister said the ministry is working with local cultural bodies, including clubs, societies and centres, through weekly co-operation that includes messages and interviews on radio and television programmes, as well as live radio shows.

He said the ministry also runs awareness and education content through short radio and television fillers, and through dedicated programmes produced with relevant bodies, including 'Amn FM' and 'Kulluna Shurakaa'.

He added that the ministry supports events by arranging interviews and carrying the required media coverage, with promotion through live and recorded programmes and via the ministry's official social media accounts.

Royal Court Minister presents National Action Medals

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On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Excellency Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of the Royal Court, presented the National Action Medals to several honourees.

H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed conveyed the greetings of HM the King and expressed his appreciation for the awardees' dedicated efforts in their respective fields.

The Minister affirmed His Majesty's keenness to honour the nation's citizens for their valuable services to the King-



H.E. Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa with honourees.jpg

dom and for contributing to its advancement and prosperity across various sectors and specialisations, wishing them continued success.

The list of honourees included: Jamal Jassim Al Ruwaie, Khaled Yousef Al Kaabi, Rashid

Abdulwahab Al Shaikh, Subah Saif Al Binali, Sultan Saeed Buraid Al Mansoori, Talal Theyab Khamees Al Rumaihi, Bader Hasan Saleh Al Ruwaie, Hisham Abdulatif Abdullah Al Rumaihi, Abdulrahman Abdulraheem Al Ghareeb, Dr. Maryam Nasser Al

Nuaimi, Yousef Ahmed Abdullah Salem, Najma Yousif Ahmed Al Alawi, Abdullah Mahmood Al Harmasi Al Hajri, Ahmed Mohammed Abdulkarem Al Mannai, Mohammed Jassim Al Ajlan, and Tareq Mohammed Taqi.

Focus on extending MPs' accounts deadline from one to three months

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The Shura Council will vote on Sunday on a draft law that would give the Council of Representatives three months, instead of one, to submit its audited year-end accounts.

The proposal amends Article 219 of Decree-Law No. 54 of 2002 on the Council of Representatives' rules of procedure.

Under the new wording, the General Secretariat would prepare the Council's final account and submit it, audited, to the Speaker within three months of the end of the financial year.

The Speaker would then refer the audited account to



Dalal Al Zayed, Head of Shura's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee

the Council's bureau to review it before it is put to the full chamber for discussion and approval.

Shura's Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee said the longer period is intended to match the three-month timeframe used for government bodies' final accounts.