

# Powers AI Future

iGA chief highlights Bahrain's digital transformation and AI governance efforts

● Bahrain showcases AI vision

● 50,000 Bahrainis to train in AI

● Smart government services expand

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Information & eGovernment Authority Chief Executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed participated in Asia Tech X Singapore, Asia's leading technology event, held in Singapore from May 19 to 21.

During a closed-door session titled "AI on the International Stage," Al Qaed highlighted Bahrain's progress in adopting artificial intelligence and developing an AI-driven digital government.

He said Bahrain's strategy is based on strengthening legislation, advancing a national AI strategy and promoting ethical



AI principles adopted at the GCC level.

Al Qaed also outlined initiatives aimed at building national AI capabilities, including plans to train 50,000 Bahrainis in AI by 2030 through programmes launched by Tamkeen. He added that more than 70 AI-related academic programmes have also been introduced in partnership with universities, civil society

organisations and the private sector.

The iGA chief highlighted Bahrain's efforts to expand AI-powered government services, including smart systems for business analytics, government support services, document verification and consumer protection.

He said Bahrain continues to strengthen its digital economy

strategy through investment in cloud computing, innovation labs and regulatory frameworks aimed at supporting responsible AI adoption and entrepreneurship.

Al Qaed also stressed the importance of AI governance, ethical standards and talent development to ensure sustainable and trusted use of emerging technologies across government sectors.

## Resident-Only Parking for Historic Muharraq Approved

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Mohammed Darwish

Historic Muharraq residents would get priority over daytime parking outside their homes under a plan unanimously approved by Muharraq Municipal Council during a Thursday sitting that lasted less than 20 minutes.

The proposal, brought by council chairman Abdulaziz Al Naar, would create parking cards for Bahrainis living in the old district, where narrow lanes, visitors and long-stay parking by non-residents have left some households struggling for space.

Under the plan, each home would be allowed up to two parking permits. Each card would be tied to a vehicle number plate, home address and identity card number, with a separate identification card issued for every car registered to residents in the area.

Parking spaces would be reserved for residents from 7 am to 9 pm. From 9 pm to 7 am, their



From the left: Saleh Bu Hazza, Vice Chairman of Muharraq Municipal Council  
Khalid Al Qallaf - Director General of Muharraq Municipality

“The problem is not with the municipality, but with the classification of entire areas,”

- SALEH BU HAZZA, VICE CHAIRMAN OF MUHARRAQ MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

use would be governed by rules covering residents and visitors.

Ambulances, vehicles used by people with disabilities and

temporary visitor permits would be exempt from the time rules. Visitor permits could be sought through an app or by prior request.

The explanatory note said the aim was to ensure residents had parking near their homes, curb long stays by non-residents, ease traffic inside the old neighbourhoods and allow tourism to continue without placing added strain on households.

The council also agreed to write to the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture



“We understand the housing and social needs of older neighbourhoods, but the issue is linked to property zoning rules,”

- AHMED AL MOQAHWI

regarding sub-addresses for a property in the Seventh Constituency, after members said the matter had caused concern among families in Muharraq.

## Bahrain Showcases Green Vision in Baku

Bahrain has highlighted its progress in afforestation and environmental sustainability during the 13th session of the World Urban Forum in the Azerbaijani capital Baku, officials said.

Engineer Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs at Bahrain's Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, took part in the forum as part of the Bahraini delegation led by Amna bint Ahmed Al Romaihi.

Held under the theme "Housing the World: Safe and Resil-

ient Cities and Communities," the forum brought together officials and experts to discuss urban development and sustainability challenges.

Shaikh Mohammed said Bahrain continues to prioritise environmental and agricultural sustainability in line with the visions of Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and directives of Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.



He said the kingdom had made notable progress in implementing initiatives linked to its national carbon neutrality action plan, afforestation strategy and

Bahrain mangrove programme as part of efforts to address climate change and preserve natural resources for future generations.

WHAT'S NEXT ON PARLIAMENT'S AGENDA?  
By Mohammed Darwish



## Quran Classes for Grades Four to Six Proposed

Proposal aims to honour Bahrain Defence Force personnel for service during Iranian aggression

A proposal to teach the Holy Quran to students in grades four, five and six in Bahrain's schools has been recommended for approval by Parliament's Services Committee.

The plan, put forward by MPs Mohammed Moosa, Hamad Al Doy, Bader Al Tamimi, Mohammed Al Rifai and Najeeb Al Kuwari, calls for Quran teaching to be applied in the second cycle of schools across the kingdom.

The second cycle covers grades four to six, after the first three years of primary school.

The committee urged MPs to approve the proposal after all members present agreed with it, saying the public interest grounds given by its authors were valid.

The MPs said the move would build on Quran teaching in the first cycle, which they said had led to better recitation and



Mohammed Moosa, MP

memorisation among pupils, as well as growth in religious awareness and Islamic and moral values.

They argued that pupils in the second cycle are at an age when ideas, habits and values are still taking shape, making it an apt stage for Quran teaching to carry on as a separate subject.

The proposal calls for pupils to be taught recitation, memorisation and Tajweed rules, along with a simple reading of verses and their link to everyday conduct.

## MPs Seek Military Honour

Proposal aims to honour Bahrain Defence Force personnel for service during Iranian aggression

Bahrain Defence Force personnel could receive a new military honour under a draft law being reviewed by Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee.

The proposal, submitted by MPs including Jameel Mulla Hassan, seeks to amend Bahrain's 1976 law on orders and medals by introducing a one-grade award named the "Order of Al Farooq."

Under the draft legislation, the medal would be awarded to BDF officers and servicemen for acts of endurance, distinction and sacrifice during Iranian aggression against Bahrain.

MPs said the move aimed to recognise the role played by Bahrain's armed forces in pro-



Jameel Mulla Hassan, MP

tecting the country, its people and civilian facilities.

The proposal also cited constitutional provisions granting Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, as Supreme Commander of the Defence Force, the authority to grant honours and medals.

If approved, the law would come into effect following its publication in the Official Gazette.

## New Real Madrid Branch Opens



The Royal Humanitarian Foundation inaugurated the second branch of the Real Madrid Social Sports School in Muharraq during a ceremony held at Sama Bay Stadium.

Officials and members of Bahrain's sports and social sectors attended the event, with Eng. Ebrahim Dalhan Aldoseri, Acting Secretary-General of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation, officially opened the new branch.

The new branch forms part of the Foundation's efforts to support young athletic talent and promote the role of sports in youth development. The school offers football training programmes based on an educational system accredited in



Spain and supervised by Spanish-certified coaches.

Organisers also announced the annual Madrid Educational Camp, scheduled from August 22 to August 31, which aims to develop young players' skills in an educational and sporting environment led by specialised coaches.