

## Arab Leaders to Discuss Security, Digital Sovereignty

Lawmakers to develop joint parliamentary positions on emerging political and technological challenges

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Rehab Mohammad

Shura Council Speaker His Excellency Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh will lead a delegation from Bahrain's Shura Council to participate in the 8th Conference of the Arab Parliament and Speakers of Arab Councils and Parliaments, set to take place on Saturday at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo, Egypt.

The conference is being organised by the Arab Parliament in cooperation with the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, bringing together speakers and representatives from Arab legislative bodies to discuss key regional and strategic issues.

The Bahraini delegation includes Deputy Chairman of

the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee Dr. Adel Abdulrahman Al Maawda and Services Committee member Dr. Ibtisam Mohammed Saleh Al Dallal.

The summit will focus on developing a unified Arab parliamentary position to support the security, stability and sovereignty of Arab nations in the face of challenges and external threats affecting regional peace and the safety of citizens.

Participants will also discuss developments in the Palestinian territories and ongoing challenges facing the Palestinian people,



H.E. Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Shura Council Speaker



Dr. Ibtisam Mohammed Saleh Al Dallal, Services Committee member



Dr. Adel Abdulrahman Al Maawda, Deputy Chairman of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee

with the conference expected to highlight the importance of a coordinated Arab parliamentary response.

A key agenda item will be strengthening Arab digital sovereignty and protecting national privacy amid rapid technological transformation. The discussions will address emerging digital,

security and political challenges facing countries in the region.

The annual conference serves as a major platform for Arab legislative leaders to exchange views, coordinate positions and adopt joint visions aimed at supporting stability, development and cooperation across the Arab world.

## Bahrain, Cyprus Discuss Cooperation and Promoting Tolerance

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Dr. Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence, met with Cyprus Foreign Minister Dr. Constantinos Kombos in Nicosia.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the High-Level International Conference on Coexistence and Religious Diversity, organized jointly by the King Hamad Global Centre and the Republic of Cyprus.

During the meeting, Dr. Shaikh Abdulrahman reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to



strengthening bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest. The two sides also discussed efforts to promote peace, inter-faith dialogue, and the values of coexistence and tolerance.

## Northern Council Member Seeks Shared Housing Data

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Mohammed Darwish

Northern Municipal Council member has asked for figures on shared housing in his ward after warning that family homes in some neighbourhoods are being used to house large numbers of workers and single men.

Abdullah Ashoor said overcrowding in homes had become a growing concern in parts of his area, with residents pointing to rows of delivery motorbikes outside some houses as one sign of the issue's scale.

Mr Ashoor asked how far Decision No 1 of 2023, which governs the filing of tenancy contracts for shared housing, had been enforced.

He also sought figures on licensed and unlicensed shared housing, inspection visits, breaches found and legal steps taken against homes found in breach.

Those steps, he said, include cutting electricity and water to offending buildings where the rules allow it.

Ashoor said the issue was not with expatriate workers or residents, but with the lack of order in some shared housing and the strain caused by packing too many people into homes built for families.

He said this could place pressure on public services, roads,



**The problem is large numbers of people living in some homes beyond their capacity**

ABDULLAH ASHOOR, NORTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

power and water networks, as well as the social make-up of family neighbourhoods.

Mr Ashoor asked the municipality to tell the council how many buildings in his ward had been licensed as shared housing, how many breaches had been logged and how many field visits and inspection drives had been carried out under the rules.

He said many families had raised fears over crowded homes, the pressure on nearby services and the effect on the family character of their areas.

He called for closer monitoring of shared housing rules, while meeting housing needs and protecting the privacy, calm and living standards of neighbourhoods.

## Indonesia Praises Bahrain's Parliamentary Role

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On the sidelines of the 20th Conference of the Union of the Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Parliamentary Union held in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Bahraini parliamentary delegation met with Indonesian Member of Parliament Syaehroel Edi Masat.

The meeting was led by MP Ahmed Sabah Al-Salloum, head of the Bahraini delegation, and attended by MP Mohammed Janahi, as well as Mohammed Ibrahim Al



Sisi Al Buainain, Secretary-General of the Shura Council and rapporteur of the parliamentary

delegation's executive committee.

The discussions focused on several issues of mutual interest, most notably the resumption of activities and meetings of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), and ways to ensure the continuity of its programmes and initiatives in the coming period. Both sides emphasized strengthening the APA's role

in promoting inter-parliamentary cooperation across Asia.

For his part, the Indonesian MP expressed appreciation for the efforts aimed at ensuring the continuity of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly's work. He praised Bahrain's role in supporting parliamentary coordination mechanisms and strengthening communication between member parliaments in a way that serves the Assembly's objectives and enhances its effectiveness in the next phase.

## Gulf prosecutors explore unified AI framework for legal work

Discussions include unified judicial guidelines and joint investigation teams

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The Public Prosecution of Bahrain chaired the 52nd meeting of the Committee of Experts from the Public Prosecutors and Public Prosecution offices of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Senior Advocate General Counselor Fahd Khalid Al Buaineen chaired the meeting, with Chief Prosecutor Mohamed Yousif Al Zubari representing the Public Prosecution of Bahrain, alongside representatives from GCC prosecution and public prosecution authorities.

The session discussed several key topics on its agenda, most

notably a proposal submitted by Bahrain's Public Prosecution to develop a model or guiding law regulating the use of artificial intelligence applications in the work of public prosecution and legal authorities across GCC countries. The proposal aims to keep pace with rapid technological developments and enhance the efficiency of judicial processes.

The committee also reviewed a draft of unified judicial instructions for members of public prosecution offices across the GCC. The initiative seeks to standardise procedures and strengthen shared judicial practices among member states. In addition, participants dis-



cussed a proposal to establish a Gulf-wide mechanism for forming joint investigation teams, aimed at improving coordination and operational cooperation between judicial bodies in GCC countries.

Counselor Al Buaineen em-

phasised the importance of continuing to develop the GCC's joint judicial framework, strengthening cooperation and integration between public prosecution authorities, and ensuring alignment with modern legal and technological advancements.

From The Court

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### Life Sentence Upheld for Wife Attack

Court confirms punishment after man convicted of attempted murder in public stabbing

The Fifth Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal upheld a life imprisonment sentence against a man in his forties convicted of attempting to murder his

wife on a public street.

The court also ordered the confiscation of the weapon used and required the defendant to pay BD5,001 in civil compensation.

Court records stated that the man followed his wife, blocked her vehicle, attacked her, dam-

aged the car and threatened her with a knife.

The victim attempted to escape, but the defendant chased and stabbed her before bystanders intervened and stopped the attack. She was later taken to hospital for treatment.

Investigations found the attack was premeditated; the defendant had prepared the weapon before carrying out the assault. A forensic report confirmed the injuries sustained. The appeal court upheld the life sentence after reviewing the case details and evidence.

### Brothers Acquitted in Perjury Case

The High Criminal Court of Appeal acquitted two Bahraini brothers convicted of giving false testimony before a civil court, overturning a previous ruling that sentenced them to six months in prison.

The case was linked to a civil dispute involving a BD32,000

film production agreement. According to their lawyer, Shaikh Rashid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, one defendant signed an agreement with the complainant to produce the film, while the complainant was responsible for distribution, screening and marketing.

The complainant later filed a

civil case, accusing the first defendant of providing false statements under oath and claiming his brother had assisted him.

The lower court convicted both men based on witness statements and evidence related to a forged document. However, the defence argued that the testimony was unrelated to the

disputed document and that no evidence proved the statements were false.

After reviewing the appeal, the court overturned the conviction and acquitted both defendants, ruling that the evidence did not meet the legal requirements to establish perjury or participation in the offence.

## Bahrain Extends Condolences to Thailand



Ambassador Dr. Shaikha Muneera bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Director General of the Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies, visits the Royal Thai Embassy in Bahrain to convey the Kingdom of Bahrain's condolences on the passing of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, the eldest daughter of the King of Thailand.