

MPs Praise Smooth Ashura Season

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

MPs have praised the running of this year's Ashura season in Bahrain, saying it showed the Kingdom's care for religious freedoms, public order and the safe practice of rituals under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

MP Ahmed Al Salloom, chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, said the season's smooth running stemmed from royal care for freedom of worship and Bahrain's long-held way of coexistence, tolerance and respect for religious occasions under the rule of law.

He said the safe and well-organised atmosphere showed Bahrain's ability to manage large religious events while preserving their religious and social place.

Mr Al Salloom praised the Interior Ministry, led by Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, for maintaining security, managing traf-



Hassan Ebrahim, MP



Ahmed Al Salloom, MP



Maryam Al Sayegh, MP

fic, easing procession movement and serving participants. He also thanked the General Directorate of Jaafari Affairs, maatam administrations, procession organisers, volunteers and young people for their work.

MP Hassan Ebrahim also thanked His Majesty the King, saying royal care for religious occasions showed Bahrain's approach to protecting religious freedoms and strengthening coexistence, tolerance and national

unity. Mr Ebrahim said the season showed the value of partnership between State bodies and the public, citing the role of maatam administrations, organising committees, charity funds and volunteers.

MP Maryam Al Sayegh said His Majesty the King was the first guarantor of freedom to practise religious rituals and the patron of Bahrain's path of coexistence and tolerance.

She thanked His Royal High-

ness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, saying his directives had been carried out through field plans that provided the needed services and organisation.

Ms Al Sayegh praised the Interior Ministry and its personnel for securing participants and managing processions, adding that broad compliance with the law and instructions showed public awareness and care to present the occasion in a manner worthy of Bahrain and its people.

ICAI Bahrain Concludes AI Masterclass with Hackathon Finale

New leadership elected for ICAI Bahrain Chapter 2026-27



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India- Bahrain Chapter successfully concluded its three-day Artificial Intelligence Masterclass with a grand finale at Crowne Plaza Bahrain, featuring the AI Hackathon 2026, a keynote address by ICAI's AI leadership, and the Chapter's Election Meeting for the 2026-27 term.

The Masterclass, conducted by AI experts CA Prabhaw Agarwalla and CA Harpreet Singh, equipped participants with a practical knowledge of artificial intelligence and its application in the accounting profession.

The concluding Hackathon enabled participants to translate their learning into action, with ten teams presenting AI-driven solutions to real-world challenges.

The evening also witnessed the announcement of the Chapter's new leadership.

CA Viinod Rathi was elected as the Chairperson for the 2026-27 term, with CA Abhishek Gupta as Vice-Chairperson and CA Pankaj Jain as Secretary. In his address, the newly elected Chairperson reflected on his association with the ICAI Bahrain Chapter since

2014 and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing the Chapter's professional and technological initiatives.

The event concluded with an inspiring keynote from CA Charanjot Singh Nanda, Immediate Past President of ICAI and Chairman of the ICAI AI Committee.

Highlighting AI's remarkable evolution from Alan Turing's seminal question in 1950—"Can machines think?" to today's transformative technologies, he urged Chartered Accountants to become creators, not merely users of AI solutions, while emphasising ethical adoption, human oversight, and professional judgement.

Chairman CA Viniit Maroo felicitated Chief Guest, CA Charanjot Singh Nanda, and Masterclass faculty CA Prabhaw Agarwalla and CA Harpreet Singh, in recognition of their invaluable contribution to the success of the three-day programme.

The successful conclusion of the Masterclass reaffirmed the ICAI Bahrain Chapter's commitment to preparing finance professionals for the AI era through continuous learning, innovation, and visionary leadership.



Attendees of the 2026-27 term meeting participated in an AI Masterclass led by CA Prabhaw Agarwalla and CA Harpreet Singh, gaining practical knowledge of artificial intelligence.

Imam Hussain Blood Drive Collects 741 Units

Strong turnout reflects community spirit and humanitarian values in Bahrain

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

The Imam Hussain (AS) Blood Donation Campaign collected a total of 741 units of blood during its 28th edition, continuing its long-standing humanitarian contribution to Bahrain's Central Blood Bank.

Held under the slogan "Hussain is a Refuge," the two-day campaign was organized in partnership with Al Hilal Healthcare Group at its Manama Central branch on June 24-25, 2026.

Officials said the initiative reflects growing public awareness about the importance of blood donation and its life-saving impact on patients across the Kingdom.

Dr. Fadhel Al-Nasheet, Chairman of the Supreme Organizing Committee, said the strong participation from both men and women reflects a deeply rooted culture of social responsibility in Bahrain.

He noted that the campaign is



inspired by the values of sacrifice, generosity, and humanitarian service associated with the legacy of Imam Hussain (AS), adding that the initiative continues to strengthen the Central Blood Bank's reserves.

Dr. Sharath Chandran, CEO of Al Hilal Healthcare Group, said hosting the campaign for the third consecutive year reflects the group's commitment to supporting community health initiatives.

He described the campaign as a leading example of volunteerism and partnership in Bahrain,

highlighting that a fully equipped medical environment was provided to ensure safe and efficient donations aligned with international standards.

The campaign, first launched in April 2000 in cooperation with the Bahrain Ministry of Health, has grown into one of the Kingdom's most sustained humanitarian efforts.

Over more than two decades, it has contributed 17,913 units of blood to the Central Blood Bank, reinforcing its role in supporting patients and emergency medical needs across Bahrain.



Arab Leaders Address External Threats

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Rehab Mohammad

His Excellency Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Speaker of the Shura Council, participated in a closed-door meeting of speakers and representatives of Arab parliaments held on Saturday at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo.

The meeting took place as part of the 8th Conference of the Arab Parliament and Speakers of Arab Councils and Parliaments, organized by the Arab Parliament in cooperation with the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The closed session brought together Arab parliamentary leaders to discuss external attacks on Arab states and to formulate a unified parliamentary position reaffirming the protection of Arab countries' security, stability, and sovereignty against any external aggression. The discussions aimed to strengthen Arab

national security and safeguard the safety and stability of their populations.

The leaders also reviewed developments in the occupied Palestinian territories and ongoing violations against the Palestinian people. A parliamentary resolution is expected to be adopted reaffirming strong Arab parliamentary support for the Palestinian cause and rejecting all practices that undermine the legitimate rights of the



Palestinian people.

In addition, the meeting discussed a draft Arab parliamentary vision titled "Enhancing Arab Digital Sovereignty and Protecting National Privacy in the Era of Digital Transformation." The initiative aims to support Arab parliaments in keeping pace with rapid technological advancements, strengthening cybersecurity, and protecting national interests as a key pillar of Arab national security.

Air-Con Repairs Surge as Heat Rises

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Mohammed Darwish

Air-conditioning maintenance firms are seeing a rise in demand as higher temperatures push households, offices and businesses to rely more heavily on cooling systems.

Workshops specialising in air-conditioner cleaning, servicing and repairs have become more active on social media in recent days, offering cut-price deals starting at BD4 for a single unit. Some are advertising packages covering five air-conditioners for BD20.

The offers often include a full inspection, washing, sanitising and chemical cleaning of internal and external parts, as well as the removal of dust, bacteria and odours. Firms say the work helps improve indoor air quality, raise cooling efficiency and extend the life of the unit.

Technicians have urged regular maintenance during the summer months to keep air-conditioners working well, cut the risk of sudden faults and reduce electricity

use.

Recommended checks include cleaning filters, internal and external fans, testing refrigerant levels, checking electrical connections and examining the compressor. Engineers also advise dealing early with faults that could weaken performance or drive up power bills.

Some households may choose to replace older air-conditioners with newer, more energy-efficient models, particularly as cooling technology improves and newer units offer better output with lower power use.

Shops selling spare parts and cooling-system supplies are also reporting stronger trade, as more customers replace worn or damaged parts after long periods of use.

Bookings for maintenance are also rising, prompting companies in the sector to ready extra teams to meet summer demand.



- Multi-unit AC servicing packages start from BD4 per unit.
- Social media is now a key platform for discounted maintenance offers.
- Some providers offer five-unit cleaning packages for BD20.
- Rising demand is driving competitive pricing among AC service workshops.

Regular air-conditioner servicing is seen as one of the main steps households and businesses can take during the hot season, helping to maintain cooling, protect indoor air quality and keep electricity use under control.