



Enhancing collaboration

Professor Marike Patrani Paulsson, Secretary-General of the Council for International Dispute Resolution of the Kingdom of Bahrain and head of the Bahrain delegation for UNCITRAL's Working Groups, met with Mr. Rashed Abdulrahman Mohamed Almuraikhi, the Head of the Gulf Cooperation Council Mission, in Vienna, Austria, to discuss avenues for enhanced collaboration among GCC countries in the field of international dispute resolution. During the meeting, the parties explored joint initiatives to support the ongoing work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group III, particularly focusing on investor-State dispute settlement reform. The discussion highlighted the leadership of GCC countries in contributing to the translation of the Working Group's outcomes and procedural documents into Arabic, ensuring broader accessibility and impact in the region.

Verdict set for drug money laundering case

TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has set 14 October for the verdict in the case of a 26-year-old Asian defendant accused of laundering more than BD38,000 by turning drug-sale profits into cryptocurrencies and reselling them. The inquiry began when the Financial Intelligence National Centre (FINC), acting on a request from the Public Pros-

ecution, examined his suspected role in an international drug network. He is said to have taken cash from sales and pushed it back through the system to make it look lawful. The method involved transfers at exchange houses, cash withdrawals from ATMs followed by bank re-deposits, and buying digital currencies that were sold on through a third party.

‘Harvest session’

Parliament committees set agenda for final session of sixth term in two weeks

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Parliament will meet for its final session of the sixth term in two weeks, with committees preparing early for debates on unfinished laws and oversight of state spending. MPs describe it as the harvest session, the point where pending measures are either carried through or left behind. The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, chaired by Ahmed Al Salloom, has already begun laying out a roadmap. He said the panel's first task is to move forward with economic decree-laws issued during the recess, among them changes to the Commercial Companies Law, the Central Bank and Financial Institutions Law, and the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Law. The second task is to scrutinise the 2025-2026 budget, testing how far the government keeps within the limits set for income and spending, studying reports from the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank, and auditing the 2024 final accounts.



MPs brace for crucial debate on key issues



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Al Salloom added that his committee will continue to fol-

low the country's main economic indicators such as growth, inflation, joblessness and public debt to judge their fit with Bahrain's long-term plan. He said speeding the pace of debate on economic bills will be one of the harder challenges, particularly those aimed at sharpening investment rules, easing trade laws and backing small and mid-sized firms. He called for closer work with the Cabinet on funding, paperwork and fair competition. Jaleela Al Sayed, head of the Services Committee, said the fourth session will bring forward key social files: pensions, unem-

ployment, jobs and welfare. The long-awaited Press Law, now before the Shura Council, is also on the agenda. She said her committee has not yet met but will do so soon. Early agreement within the committee and with the government, she said, is needed for a strong start. The lawmaker pressed for long-term answers on pensions and unemployment, new labour laws to close gaps, and a revised minimum living standard. The present figure of BD336, she argued, is outdated, and a new sum should be set each year.

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