

Stronger oversight

Shura Council set to revisit bill placing private schools under new regulatory law

Education Ministry to gain wider powers over licensing and governance

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TDT | Manama

The Shura Council will return today to a bill that would place private educational institutions under a new law, after the Services Committee backed giving the Ministry of Education stronger powers over licensing, governance and oversight.

The draft, accompanying Decree No. 60 of 2025, would issue a Private Educational Institutions Law made up of six provisions and seven chapters containing 36 articles.

It is pitched as a way to regulate education in private providers so it matches national education policy, while supporting a high-quality system that helps develop children and students in a well-rounded way.

Rules

The Services Committee said the bill would update the legal rules for the private education sector and keep pace with changes in the market.



Shura Council

It would also separate the regulation of private educational institutions from private training institutions, expand the range of bodies that fall under ministry supervision, and add to the ministry's powers of inspection and follow-up.

Committee members said the proposed law aims to improve the quality and continuity of education outcomes and tighten governance through rules on licensing, management and monitoring.

Investment

It also seeks to encourage responsible investment in education, with a stated aim of balancing the public interest

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with investors' rights.

The committee said the interests of children, students and parents sit at the centre of the system set out in the bill.

In the same sitting, the council is due to look at a separate proposal linked to Parliament's internal rules, after the Legislative and Legal Affairs Commit-

tee backed a change to allow more time for Parliament's final accounts and audited financial statements to be prepared.

The amendment would revise Article 219 of Decree-Law No. 54 of 2002 on Parliament's rules of procedure.

Account

The proposal would give the General Secretariat a longer window to prepare the final account, bring the timetable into line with the period used for other government bodies, and reduce the strain caused by the current 30-day deadline.

The committee said this would also give the National Audit Office time to finish checking

the figures and hand over the audited statements on schedule.

The agenda also includes a traffic-law proposal that has again run into committee opposition.

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee has stuck to its earlier recommendation to reject a draft amendment linked to settlement payments for traffic offences.

Fine

The proposal would replace the third paragraph of Article 56 of the Traffic Law (Law No. 23 of 2014) so that an accused person who agrees to settle must pay an amount equal to half the minimum fine for the offence within 30 days from the date the settlement is offered.

The committee said the change conflicts with Decree-Law No. 30 of 2025, which raised the fines set for traffic violations in pursuit of general and special deterrence.

It said the amendment also raises questions about proportionality between the offence and the penalty, a core constitutional principle in criminal policy, adding that the recent rise in financial penalties came in response to the danger posed by traffic violations and their impact on lives, property and public order.

Global youth photography event held in Kingdom

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The Kingdom of Bahrain played host for the first time to the 42nd FIAP Youth Photography Biennial, a prestigious international cultural event that elevates photography as both an expressive medium and a tool for critical reflection.

The biennial transformed exhibition spaces into a platform for the younger generation to explore pressing questions about the world, reality, and human experience.

Within this visual arena, the works on display functioned as an open laboratory of perception, where the camera lens engages with time and meaning, reshapes reality, and captures the essence of fleeting moments while archiving their human impact.

Collaboration

The event was organised through a collaboration between the Bahrain Fine Arts Society and the International Federation of Photographic Art, attracting young participants from 18 countries.

Structured within a competitive framework, the biennial promotes cultural exchange and underscores photography as a universal language, enabling diverse perspectives to converge on a shared visual plane.

Bahraini artist blends heritage with modern art

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Bahraini visual artist Anisa Al-Saad is among the prominent names who have successfully combined early artistic talent with professional experience.

Her passion for art emerged in childhood, before her career led her into the banking sector, where she worked for many years.

Following her retirement, Al-Saad returned to fine art with renewed enthusiasm and a more mature artistic vision.

She believes that creativity is not bound by age or a specific time in life, but rather grows from accumulated human experience.

Al-Saad's work is rooted in Bahraini heritage, reflecting her conviction that heritage forms the foundation of cultural identity and tells the first story of place and people.

Through her paintings, she draws inspiration from the Bahraini environment and traditional customs, presenting them through a contemporary artistic lens that preserves the spirit of the past while giving it a modern visual expression.

She has participated in numerous art exhibitions and forums both within Bahrain and abroad, experiences that have enriched her practice and broadened her artistic and intellectual horizons.

Her most recent participation



Anisa Al-Saad makes Bahrain proud at the Fujairah Artists' Forum



Anisa's brilliant work of arts showing rich Bahraini heritage

was in the Fujairah Artists' Forum, organised by the Fujairah Academy of Arts at Umbrella Beach, where she was one of 10 artists representing the Kingdom of Bahrain.

She described the experience as a pivotal moment in her creative journey.

Al-Saad said the forum offered more than an opportunity to display her work.

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— ANISA AL-SAAD, BAHRAINI VISUAL ARTIST

merge Bahraini heritage with modern techniques, making my paintings more dynamic and expressive," she said.

She also expressed her appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the forum, describing it as a space for genuine creativity and meaningful artistic exchange.

Travelers Tribe Bahrain Outreach Program unites Filipino community



A moment of sharing gifts and love

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Service, solidarity, and Filipino pride took center stage, as the Travelers Tribe Masonic Club (T2) Bahrain held an Outreach Program, a celebration of compassion, culture, and collective responsibility far from home.

The event is in coordination and support from Filipino American Association of Bahrain and PHAMly Club Bahrain, highlighting the collaborative spirit of the Filipino community in Bahrain.

The program kicked off with a lively Zumba session led by the Philippine Dance Crew, immediately energizing the attendees, followed by an invocation that lent a meaningful and purposeful start to the day.

Action

In his welcome address, Mr. Joselito Sarmiento, T2 adviser and the vice president Internal of Fil-Am Bahrain, underscored the power of unity and collec-



tive action among overseas Filipinos, noting how compassion and collaboration can strengthen and uplift the community abroad.

Serving also as the emcee, he seamlessly guided the proceedings, ensuring a smooth and engaging flow throughout the event.

In his address, former T2 President (2020) Frederick Asuncion offered words of encouragement to attendees enduring difficult conditions.

He reminded them to remain hopeful, expressing optimism that their circumstances would improve despite present challenges.

Asuncion also shared that he closely monitors the number of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) staying in shelters each year, voicing his hope that the figure would eventually reach zero or at the very least, that fewer individuals would be forced to face such difficult situations.