

‘Humanitarian disaster’

Lawmakers call for urgent action on Gaza suffering after Rafah visit

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A senior Arab parliamentarian has described the Gaza situation as a ‘humanitarian disaster’ following a visit to the Rafah crossing, as lawmakers, including Bahrain’s Mamdouh Al Saleh and Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, met in Cairo for the closing session.

Mohammed Al Yamahi, who chairs the Arab Parliament, said the visit laid bare the suffering in Gaza.

He praised Egypt’s efforts to deliver aid in coordination with the Egyptian Red Crescent, and urged the international community to act to end the violence and violations against Palestinians.

The session, held at the Arab League headquarters, drew MPs from across the Arab world.

Among them were the two Bahraini representatives, who



MPs Mamdouh Al Saleh, Dr Hisham Al Ashiri (bottom left), and Shura member Dr Adel Al Maawda (top right)

reaffirmed their country’s backing for the Palestinian cause.

Leadership

Dr Al Ashiri linked Bahrain’s stance to the leadership of HM King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the continued support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

“Bahrain’s position is clear,”

he said. “The Palestinian people have a right to an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.”

Al Saleh said the Kingdom’s presence formed part of its effort to back Arab causes on the global stage.

The session also saw the swearing-in of new members and the unopposed appointment of Saudi Shura Council member Saad bin Sulaib Al Otaibi as First

Deputy Speaker.

Forums

Proposals to establish forums for Arab women and youth MPs were approved. Reports from the Parliament’s standing committees were also adopted for submission to the relevant authorities.

Dr Adel Al Maawada, from Bahrain’s Shura Council, took part in the session and contrib-

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- DR ADEL AL MAAWDA, SHURA COUNCIL MEMBER

uted to the work of the committee on foreign, political, and security affairs.

He said the meeting showed

growing Arab engagement with core issues.

“The session discussed a number of key matters,” he said, “including developments in Palestinian territories, regional tensions, the importance of maintaining the ceasefire, avoiding military conflict, and working to keep the region free of weapons of mass destruction.”

Reports

Members also reviewed reports from the legal, economic, social, and Palestinian affairs committees, as well as notes from the Rafah visit and a side meeting held during the Arab Summit in Baghdad.

Other items on the table included plans for a conference on the blue economy, a draft law to address irregular migration, proposals to support social enterprises and home-run businesses, and steps to improve online education across the Arab world.

Strategic initiative to empower young people launched
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Her Excellency Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfiqi, Minister of Youth Affairs, announced a national initiative inspired by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian and Youth Affairs, to build an innovative and impactful generation by empowering youth and promoting community partnership.

The initiative aims to position young people as key contributors to the Kingdom’s comprehensive development by encouraging public and private sector institutions to make youth support a strategic priority.

It also seeks to invest in their creativity, build their leadership capacity, and enhance their participation in national development.

Tawfiqi said the initiative promotes a broad-based community alliance committed to enabling youth participation in decision making and fostering trust in their leadership potential.

It will also serve as a national platform to raise their profile and offer wider opportunities for success and global competitiveness.

The minister explained that clear evaluation criteria have been established for institutions applying to be recognised as youth supporters.

These include the extent of their engagement with young people, integration into policies and leadership roles, and the measurable impact of their youth-focused programmes.

Beyond the Barracks: Bahrain’s Military Athletes Step Onto Global Podiums



Bahraini military athletes are shining on the global stage, making the Kingdom proud

Consistent global podium finishes

BDF praised for sporting rise

Military sports gain momentum

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is steadily building a reputation for sporting excellence through its armed forces, with its military athletes claiming global recognition

across a range of international competitions.

From winning gold at the World Military Golf Championship to taking bronze in the Military World Judo Championship, the Kingdom’s servicemen have consistently reached the podium at major events.

These achievements reflect a growing emphasis on fitness, discipline and competitive performance within the Bahrain Defence Force’s sporting divisions.

The Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) has invested significantly in sports development, enabling its athletes to represent the nation with distinction in events such as athletics, golf and judo



Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

under the banner of the International Military Sports Council (CISM).

With more than 140 member countries, CISM competitions

attract some of the most elite military athletes in the world.

Bahrain’s bronze in judo at the 2023 Military World Championship in Uzbekistan and its strong performances in the pentathlon and track events have helped establish the Kingdom as an emerging force in international military sports.

Official praise

Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, has previously praised the determination and discipline of Bahrain’s military athletes.

He described their achievements on the international stage

as a source of national pride.

In earlier statements, he also highlighted the value of military sports in building morale and representing Bahrain’s values through global engagement.

The BDF’s Military Sports Federation continues to benefit from strong national support, with ongoing efforts focused on high-level training and broader international participation.

Future focus

With momentum on its side, Bahrain’s military sports programme is expected to feature prominently in future regional and international championships.

Bahrain Backs Developer Partnerships

Visit boosts urban cooperation

Licensing, laws under review

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is reinforcing its commitment to collaborative urban development through closer cooperation between govern-



H.E. Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak with ministry officials and private sector developers

ment agencies and private sector developers.

This was underscored during a working visit by His Excellency Engineer Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municip-

alities Affairs and Agriculture, to the Bahrain Real Estate Development Association.

The visit, attended by Association Chairman Engineer Arif Ahmed Hejres and a number

of ministry officials and developers, focused on aligning efforts to improve the investment climate and streamline urban planning processes.

Al Mubarak praised the role of

specialised civil society organisations in supporting Bahrain’s economic and urban development goals.

He said the government is eager to expand collaboration with key private stakeholders, especially in updating construction sector legislation and simplifying licensing procedures.

“We are committed to strengthening our partnership with the real estate sector and continuously improving the regulatory environment to enhance investor confidence,” he said.