Shura Council Leads Reform

42% of Council are women

13th in digital index

Women lead key committees

Reform drive gains praise

Mahir Haneef TDT | Manama

ahrain's Shura Council is gaining international recognition as a model of modern governance, combining digital innovation with gender inclusion.

On the occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarism, the Council marked its dual achievements by placing 13th globally in digital maturity and raising women's leadership to 42 percent within its Secretariat, underscoring a reform path praised at home and abroad.

Reform in motion

si, the Shura's General Secreembrace of both technological Minister. excellence and institutional in-

mitment to gender equality a Union, which placed Bahrain's



H.E. Kareema Mohammed AlAbbasi



H.E. Dr. Fatema Abduliabbar Alkooheii



H.E. Sabeeka Khalifa Alfadhala



H.E. Dalal Jasim Alzayed



H.E. Nancy Dinah Elly Khedouri celebrated its growing female standing committees and take

Shura members including sight, and parliamentary diplo-H.E. Dr. Fatema Abduljabbar macy. H.E. Dr. Jehad Abdulla Alof work to modernise legislative ifa Alfadhala, H.E. Dalal Jasim fadhel, Second Deputy Speakinfrastructure, boost virtual par- Alzayed, Lina Habib Qassem, er, described Bahrain's legisla- al theme, "Achieving Gender ticipation, and streamline insti- and H.E. Dr. Jameela Mohamed tive chamber as a platform for Equality: Step by Step", the Shu-

active roles in legislation, over-

vation. al values and global competi-

Bahrain is the only

Arab country ranked in the global top 20 on the

Inter-Parliamentary Un-

ion's 2024 Digital Maturity Index. The ranking

covers 115 parliaments

across 86 countries and evaluates transparency,

digital access, and inno-

tiveness.

Global model recognised

Council member H.E. Nancy Dinah Elly Khedouri emphasised the impact of Bahraini women in international forums, noting their presence in regional and global parliamentary events as proof of Bahrain's commitment to equality and inclusion.

H.E. Leena Habib Kassim, Chair of the Women and Children's Affairs Committee, echoed that sentiment, calling the Council an institutional expression of trust in women's leadership.

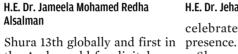
In line with this year's glob-Redha Alsalman spoke about the national dialogue and equal ra Council used the occasion to national strides made in institu- participation, where women's spotlight its efforts as part of representation in policymaking Bahrain's national reform nar-



H.E. Lina Habib Qassem

reflection of Bahrain's broader Led by Secretary-General H.E. ty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Kareema Mohammed AlAbba- and His Royal Highness Prince tariat highlighted the Council's the Crown Prince and Prime

AlAbbasi called the Council's Global e-Parliament Report isdigital transformation and com- sued by the Inter-Parliamentary



The recognition reflects years tutional transparency.

Women at the forefront

At the same time, the Council

tionalising gender balance.

H.E. Dr. Jehad Abdulla Alfadhel

Alkooheji, H.E. Sabeeka Khal-

Women now lead multiple demonstrates both constitution- rative.

the legislative and executive at, and women now chair several



ries of recognitions for Bahrain's expression. parliamentary transformation.

Index issued by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Council has also achieved

permanent committees.

Unified direction

Al-Dhaen said Bahrain's paras a platform for internation-The statement follows a se- al engagement and democratic

International Parliamenta-These include the Shura ry Day, she added, serves as a Council's first-place ranking in reminder of the responsibility the Arab world and 13th global- parliaments bear in upholding ly in the 2024 Digital Maturity justice, promoting development, and advocating for equality across borders.

She pledged to continue rep-



reform project under His Majes-Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,

The Council's digital leadership was confirmed by the 2024

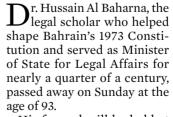
the Arab world for digital ma-

MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Al-Dhaen also commended Prince and Prime Minister, for

Constitutional Architect Passes Away Mohammed Darwish

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first Bahrainis to study law abroad, earning his degree jurisprudence. from Baghdad in 1953 before pursuing further study in Brit- of State for Legal Affairs in



His funeral will be held at Dr. Hussain Al Baharna

in 1961, cementing a legal foun-Al Baharna was among the dation that would influence both national and international

He was appointed Minister

'Modern Parliament Leads Globally'

Bahrain promotes global dialogue

Parliament backs gender equality

Royal support drives reform

Mahir Haneef TDT | Manama

Bahrain's modern parliamentary system is emerging as digital innovation, gender equal-

Mohammed Darwish

 $B^{
m ahrain's}$ parliamentary record, shaped by His Maj-

esty King Hamad bin Isa Al

Khalifa's reform charter, now stands as a model for the re-

MP Ahmed Al Salloom said

International Day of Parlia-

the Cabinet, under His Royal

Highness Prince Salman bin

keeping bills in good order and

mentarism today.

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its legislative identity.

rism, MP Dr. Maryam Al-Dhaen reaffirmed that Bahrain's experience now stands at the forefront tional recognition.

Diplomacy in focus

MP Ahmed Al Salloom

key economic and social laws.

open doors for jobseekers.

Al Salloom said this has

This year, the United Na-

Dr. Al-Dhaen described Bah- standing. rain's parliament as a key pillar in the Kingdom's state-building goals recognised globally on this and development strategy, em- day celebrating parliamentary powered by the continued support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and guided by a regional model by integrating the national reform programme.

ity, and diplomatic outreach into now plays a vital role in foreign

policy by building bridges with On the occasion of the Inter- global parliaments, participatnational Day of Parliamenta- ing in regional dialogues, and promoting Bahrain's image in multilateral forums.

She noted that Bahrain's parof national reform and interna- liamentary diplomacy reflects the maturity of its democratic experience and supports peace, security, and mutual under-

These are also among the key cooperation.

Institutional progress

She said the legislative branch the government, led by His Roy- fostering an effective environ- a 42 percent female leadership resenting Bahrain's national inal Highness Prince Salman bin ment of collaboration between rate within its General Secretariterests in global forums.

Shura Council's active engagements globally

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ing the third sitting of the sixth sustainable growth, gender legislative term, with members parity, technological change, attending a variety of foreign and defence. visits and virtual sessions.

subjects ranging from trade took over leadership of next and finance to climate policy, year's GCC conference of parhealthcare, artificial intelligence, and national security.

effort as part of its aim to ex- and became a full member of change ideas with other part the Mediterranean assembly.

liaments and improve its own legislative practices. Discus-Shura Council took part in 55 sions covered topics now com-international meetings dur- mon across global assemblies:

Bahrain chaired the Asian These engagements covered Parliamentary Assembly and liamentary speakers from the United Arab Emirates.

The Council also obtained observer status in the South-The Council described the east Asian parliamentary bloc

5pm today at Al Hoora Cem- at the University of Cambridge

ain and the Netherlands. ate in public international law in that position until 1995.

1971, shortly after Bahrain's He later completed a doctor- independence, and remained

Al Salloom pointed to Bahtuned to public needs. The Shura Council, across rain's figures.

Bahrain's Parliament a regional model

this as the world marks the several terms, has overhauled

He credited steady cooper- helped Bahrain sharpen its ation between Parliament and edge, attract investors and

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown tions chose the theme "Achiev-

Prince and Prime Minister, for ing gender equality, action by

action".