

# Security Is Red Line

Officials stress firm national position following the King's media address

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Senior Bahraini officials said that the recent remarks by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the media reflect the national sentiment and reinforce unity in defending the Kingdom's security and sovereignty.

Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said the King's message embodies the "conscience of the Bahraini people" and affirms a firm national stance prioritising the country's stability above all else. He said the remarks underscore national unity in confronting threats and safeguarding achievements.

Dr. Ramzan bin Abdullah Al Nuaimi, Information Minister said the King's statements represent a clear and decisive message on protecting sovereignty and strengthening national cohesion. He added that the media has a key responsibility to counter misinformation and reinforce facts during sensitive periods.



“His Majesty the King clearly expresses the conscience of the Bahraini people and reflects a unified national stance”

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN KHALIFA AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY



“Bahrain's security and sovereignty are a red line that cannot be compromised under any circumstances.”

DR. RAMZAN BIN ABDULLAH AL NUAIMI, MINISTER OF INFORMATION



“Unity affirms that loyalty to the country is a responsibility that admits no hesitation or compromise.”

ALI BIN SALEH AL SALEH, SPEAKER OF THE SHURA COUNCIL



“Protecting national security is fundamental to safeguarding human rights.”

ALI AHMED AL DERAZI, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



“Calling for clarity of stance and stronger national cohesion in the face of challenges.”

DR. ALI BIN MOHAMMED AL ROMAIHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh said the remarks reaffirm that loyalty to the nation is non-negotiable and

stressed the importance of national solidarity in addressing security challenges.

Ali Ahmed Al Derazi, President of the National Institution for Human Rights, said the statements also reflect a balance between national security and human rights, noting that protecting stability is essential for safeguarding public rights and freedoms. He stressed that the rule of law remains central to

addressing any actions that threaten social unity or security.

In an additional statement, Al Derazi reiterated that the King's remarks reinforce “responsible citizenship based on respect

for the law” and reject any behaviour that could harm social cohesion or endanger national stability. He said safeguarding the homeland is inseparable from protecting human dignity and rights.

## Missing Girl Found Safe

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Rehab Mohammad

The court sentenced a defendant to seven years in prison after finding him guilty of luring a child through an online game and sexually exploiting her, according to the Family and Child Prosecution.

The High Criminal Court also ordered the confiscation of the defendant's mobile phone as part of the ruling.

According to case details, the Public Prosecution began investigations after East Riffa Police received a missing person report filed by the father of a 14-year-old girl. Following search operations, the girl was located at the defendant's residence, where she reported that she had been harmed.

The Family and Child Prosecution, working with the Victim and Witness Protection Office, ensured the child's identity and personal information remained confidential to protect her privacy.

During interrogation, the defendant admitted to the charges, and the case was referred to court, which issued the final verdict.

Officials from the Family and Child Prosecution warned of the growing risks posed by unsupervised access to online platforms and digital games, which can be exploited to target minors. They urged parents to closely monitor their children's online activity and report any suspicious behaviour immediately.

## Jail Terms for Unlicensed Fundraising

Introducing a New Risk-Based Monitoring System



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Mohammed Darwish



Measures are set to debate a decree-law introducing tougher penalties, including up to BD10,000 fines and jail terms, for unlicensed fundraising in Bahrain.

The proposed law, backed by the Services Committee, expands oversight powers over public fundraising and strengthens measures against money laundering and terrorism financing, including stricter controls on transferring funds abroad without approval.

The draft also introduces a risk-based monitoring system for licensed fundraisers, requiring ongoing updates aligned with national risk assessments and FATF standards ahead of Bahrain's 2026 review.

Under the law, collecting funds for terrorist purposes could carry life imprisonment or at least 10 years in jail, along with fines up to BD500,000. Unlicensed fundraising would

- Fines up to BD10,000 for violations
- Unlicensed fundraising: jail and up to BD1,000 fine
- Terror-related fundraising: up to life imprisonment and BD500,000 fine
- Stronger monitoring, reporting, and fund transfer controls

carry smaller jail terms and fines, while courts would also confiscate illegally raised funds.

The Ministry of Social Development reported rising compliance checks and highlighted increasing monitoring of fundraising licences in recent years. Some charities supported the reforms, while others raised concerns over penalties and reporting burdens.

## Arab-Asia First Link

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Partnership to enhance expertise and knowledge exchange in arbitration

The Bahrain International Dispute Resolution Council signed a memorandum of understanding with the Thailand Arbitration Center to strengthen cooperation in international arbitration and dispute resolution.

The MoU was signed via video



conference by Professor Marika Pataranee Polson, Secretary-General of the Bahrain International Dispute Resolution Council, and Suriyapong Tobtimthai, Director-General of the Thailand Arbitration Center.

This marks the first agreement of its kind between an Arab country and the Kingdom of Thailand in the field of arbitration and institutional cooperation, representing

a milestone in enhancing legal and professional ties between the Arab region and Southeast Asia.

The agreement reflects a shared commitment to developing expertise in arbitration and dispute settlement through dialogue, knowledge exchange, and future collaboration. It also supports Bahrain's broader efforts to deepen international partnerships and expand institutional cooperation in the field.

## Sovereignty Jurisdiction Under Review

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Rehab Mohammad



The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee of the Shura Council has referred its report on amendments to the Judicial Authority Law concerning nationality matters to the Council Bureau for consideration at an upcoming session.

Chaired by Lawyer Dalal Jasim Al Zayed, the committee reviewed Decree-Law No. (13) of 2024, which amends Article (7) of the Judicial Authority Law of 2002. The amendment stipulates that nationality-related issues are sovereign acts and fall outside judicial jurisdiction.

The committee examined the decree-law's legal basis, the government's position, the Council of Representatives' decision, and a legal memorandum prepared by its advisor before finalising its report.

In a related review, the committee issued its opinion on the constitutional and legal validity of Decree-Law No. (38) of 2025,

which amends provisions of the Commercial Companies Law.

### Pakistan Transfer Deal

It also confirmed the soundness of draft legislation approving Bahrain's accession to Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 1973), as well as a draft agreement with Pakistan on the transfer of sentenced persons.

Both draft laws were referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security Committee for further study as the competent body.

## Holy Journey Begins

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The first groups of pilgrims are set to depart for the Holy Sites on May 12, marking the beginning of a carefully coordinated travel schedule extending through May 22 via Bahrain International Airport, King Fahd Causeway, and King Fahd International Airport in Dammam.

A total of 24 licensed Hajj campaigns will operate this year, serving Bahrain's official quota of 4,625 pilgrims. These operations are under arrangements aimed at ensuring high standards of comfort, safety, and smooth logistical coordination in partnership with the Bahrain Hajj Mission.

