

Bahrain hospital infection rates match global benchmarks



Dr Jameela Al Salman

Mohammed Darwish
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Bahrain's hospital infection rates are tracking global benchmarks under an infection control plan built on World Health Organisation guidance, the Health Ministry has told the Shura Council in a written reply.

The ministry was answering a question from Shura Council member Dr Jameela Al Salman.

She had asked if Bahrain has a national plan that follows WHO advice, what standards are in place to protect patients and staff, how those rules are checked, if binding regulations have been issued, and how hospital infection rates compare with figures abroad.

In its response, the ministry said Bahrain runs a national infection prevention and control plan that has been updated and approved by the National Communicable Diseases Committee, a multi-disciplinary, multi-sector group.

Approach

The plan follows the WHO's approach to infection control and workplace safety in health facilities and is applied across government hospitals, Royal Medical Services, primary health centres and private hospitals and clinics, with regular reviews to keep pace with practice overseas.

According to the reply, the plan rests on clear policies to limit the spread of infection, systems to watch for and prevent health-care-associated infections, and training and ongoing development for healthcare workers in line with global standards.

The ministry said there is also a focus on building a safety-minded culture and on service quality at every level of the health system.

Infection control standards are tied to health, technical and safety requirements issued by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) for health facilities and their equipment.

These national technical rules were drawn up.

Stricter criteria

MPs approve bill limiting foreign hires in public jobs reserved for qualified Bahrainis

Setting minimum 10-year background for expat recruits

Mohammed Darwish
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MPs yesterday approved a bill that would force ministries and state bodies to bring in expatriates for public jobs only if they hold at least a master's degree and 10 years' experience, then sent it back to the Shura Council for a second review.

The Council of Representatives' vote confirmed earlier backing for amendments to Article 11 of the Civil Service Law and returned the draft to the upper chamber, which had previously rejected it in principle under the legislative process in force.

Under the bill, ministries and other government entities may only contract non-Bahrainis if no Bahraini candidate is available who meets the requirements for the post.

Any expatriate hire must hold at least a master's degree, or an equivalent qualification, in the relevant specialism and have no less than 10 years' experience in the same field.

Cap

Contracts for non-Bahraini staff would be capped at two years and could be renewed only once for another two-year term.



Parliament session yesterday

Renewal would depend on confirming that a suitable Bahraini candidate is still not available and on the approval of a committee formed by the Civil Service Bureau to check that the conditions in the executive regulations of the Civil Service Law have been met.

The text also requires that the employment contract for a foreign worker include an obligation to train a Bahraini employee during the contract period.

Where a contract is silent on a point, the Civil Service Law and its executive regulations would apply to those hired under these arrangements.

Instructions

The Civil Service Bureau would issue instructions spelling out the rules and standard forms for contracts with non-Bahrainis, including the training requirement.

workers under the registered worker (flexi visa) scheme.

Their aim is to stop permanent departure from the country before all dues are settled.

The proposal is backed by Khalid Buanaq, Mahmood Fardan, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Mohammed Al Ma'arafi and Hisham Al Awadhi.

Confidence

They say recent years have seen more foreign investors and workers leave Bahrain without paying what they owe to government bodies or private companies, which has led to a build-up of unpaid debts and, in their view, affected confidence in the investment climate and commercial dealings in the kingdom.

According to the MPs, small and medium-sized enterprises are the most exposed.

Many such firms, they say, are left unable to recover what they are owed once debtors leave the country, which hits their cash flow and frustrates state efforts to back entrepreneurship and

help these businesses grow.

They add that the ease of opening commercial registrations and working under the flexi-visa system, without firm checks before final exit, has allowed some people to take advantage of the rules and walk away from contractual duties.

This, they argue, weakens the principle of the binding force of contracts and shakes trust in the local market.

The MPs also note that the unpaid sums cover a range of liabilities, including rent, bank finance, government fees and fines, leaving landlords, lenders and other parties unable to collect their money once the debtor has gone.



The amendments are intended to give Bahraini citizens first call on public jobs and to build local skills so that Bahrainis can take over posts now held by expatriates.

In its report to the chamber, the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee stated that the amendments are intended to give Bahraini citizens first call on public jobs and to build local skills so that Bahrainis can take over posts now held by expa-

triaties.

The government, in a memorandum attached to the draft, asked MPs to reconsider the bill.

Academic level

It stated that fixing a specific academic level and detailed conditions in the law does not sit with the legislative approach of the Civil Service Law, as decisions on required knowledge, skills and extra qualifications for each post depend on actual staffing needs and changing circumstances.

According to the memorandum, that flexibility helps government bodies meet the tasks assigned to them.

Despite that position, and the earlier refusal of the Shura Council to approve the bill in principle, the Council of Representatives has now confirmed its support for the amended text and sent it back to the upper chamber for a further review.

MPs back licence for quad-bike 'bungee' tracks

Urgent motion

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An urgent proposal to create a legal category for quad-bike circuits has been approved by MPs after operators of so-called "bungee" tracks were ordered to shut because no licence exists for the activity.

The Council of Representatives agreed yesterday to an urgent motion calling on the government to register "operation of bungee tracks - Bungee Vehicles / 4Wheel" as a new activity under the Renting and leasing of recreational and sports goods register.

The change is intended to give existing operators a clear legal route to resume work and to bring these tracks under a formal permit system. In Bahrain, "bungee vehicles" is the term widely used for four-wheeled quad bikes.

The proposal was lodged by MP Mamdouh Al Saleh, Second Deputy Speaker Ahmed Qarata, MP Mahmood Fardan, MP Jalal Kadhem and MP Abdulwahid Qarata.

Their explanatory memorandum links the move to the recent growth of Bahrain's tourism sector, which they say has expanded in step with government plans to widen leisure options, diversify income sources and improve quality of life.

Exit controls on indebted foreign investors and flexi-visa workers

MPs lodge urgent proposal for government action

Mohammed Darwish
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Foreign investors and flexi-visa workers who leave Bahrain without paying their debts are in the sights of MPs pressing for stricter exit controls tied to outstanding financial obligations.

A group of MPs has lodged an urgent proposal calling on the government to impose extra conditions, within existing laws, on foreign investors, commercial registration holders and

workers under the registered worker (flexi visa) scheme.

Their aim is to stop permanent departure from the country before all dues are settled.

The proposal is backed by Khalid Buanaq, Mahmood Fardan, Zainab AbdulAmeer, Mohammed Al Ma'arafi and Hisham Al Awadhi.

Confidence

They say recent years have seen more foreign investors and workers leave Bahrain without paying what they owe to government bodies or private companies, which has led to a build-up of unpaid debts and, in their view, affected confidence in the investment climate and commercial dealings in the kingdom.

According to the MPs, small and medium-sized enterprises are the most exposed.

Many such firms, they say, are left unable to recover what they are owed once debtors leave the country, which hits their cash flow and frustrates state efforts to back entrepreneurship and

help these businesses grow.

They add that the ease of opening commercial registrations and working under the flexi-visa system, without firm checks before final exit, has allowed some people to take advantage of the rules and walk away from contractual duties.

This, they argue, weakens the principle of the binding force of contracts and shakes trust in the local market.

The MPs also note that the unpaid sums cover a range of liabilities, including rent, bank finance, government fees and fines, leaving landlords, lenders and other parties unable to collect their money once the debtor has gone.



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Despite that position, and the earlier refusal of the Shura Council to approve the bill in principle, the Council of Representatives has now confirmed its support for the amended text and sent it back to the upper chamber for a further review.

Lawmakers block plan for Bahrain Post to offer banking services

Mohammed Darwish
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Fourteen MPs have blocked a draft law to let Bahrain Post offer bank-style services under Central Bank oversight, with eight backing the plan and two abstaining at yesterday's sitting.

The proposal sought to allow Bahrain Post to provide financial services in line with the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law, leaving a ministerial decision to list the services and set their rules.

The draft was originally put forward by MP Basema Mubarak. The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee had supported the idea during its study.

TENDER NOTICE

The Embassy of India, Bahrain invites bids/quotations from reputed firms for supply of 03(three) Local Security Guards for manning its Chancery cum Residential Complex. For details, please check the Tenders page of the Embassy's website at <http://eoibahrain.gov.in/> or send email to hoc.bahrain@mea.gov.in

Stage set for 'Punto Italia' at Ironman Village

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The Embassy of Italy in Bahrain is pleased to announce the celebrations of the Italian Sports Day in conjunction with the world-renowned Ironman 70.3 Bahrain under the esteemed patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

From 2 to 5 December 2025, the Embassy welcomes athletes, sports enthusiasts, and the Bahraini community to "Punto Italia" at the Ironman Village, a vibrant hub showcasing Italy's passion for sport and its global achievements.

This initiative forms part of the worldwide celebrations of Italian Sports Day, as the nation

eagerly looks forward to two major international events: the Winter Olympic Games in Milan-Cortina 2026 and the Mediterranean Olympic Games in Taranto 2026.

The sports industry in Italy is a vital pillar of the national economy, generating 24.7 billion in added value, employing more than 400,000 people,

and contributing approximately 1.5% of the country's GDP.

With exports of sports goods reaching 4.7 billion, Italy proudly ranks among the top five global exporters and holds the position of second in the European Union.

Beyond these impressive figures, Italian champions continue to inspire audiences.