

MP seeks fix to clashing medical rules after doctors suspended

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Two Bahraini doctors were taken to court and suspended from work for six months even though they had followed official hospital policies, an MP told Parliament as he urged changes to clashing medical rules so that malpractice cases are handled on a clear and fair basis.

Jameel Mulla Hassan said the written reply to his parliamentary question was not clear and asked if this meant that investigation committees did not recognise approved policies in public hospitals and health centres.

He said health workers follow written policies and procedures issued by government institutions and objected to these being ignored when some decisions are taken.

He referred to two cases, one involving a psychiatrist and the other a doctor at Salmaniya Medical Complex.

Both, he said, had acted in line with formal policies in force at their institutions, yet the reports submitted in the cases went against them and they were prosecuted and suspended from work for six months.

Rising breakups

Bahrain records five divorces a day, straining families and state support, says MP

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Five divorces a day and more than 20,000 cases in a decade have been recorded in Bahrain, MP Jalal Kadhem told Parliament, citing Justice Ministry data and warning of pressure on families, children and state support.

During a debate on the ministry's reply to his parliamentary question, he said Sharia courts had registered 5,284 divorce cases among Bahrainis over the past three years.

According to the reply, this works out to five divorce cases a day, roughly one every five hours, against 12 marriages a day.

MP Kadhem said this showed that "almost half of cases end in divorce, which poses a direct threat to the cohesion of society".

Cases

He added that 94 per cent of the divorce cases recorded during the period of the question involved long-standing marriages with children, rather than recent marriages as some might assume.

The lawmaker said this added to the social and psychological



Image used for illustrative purposes only
strain on sons and daughters caught up in marital disputes.

He said Bahrain had recorded more than 20,000 divorce cases in the past 10 years.

Support

MP Kadhem linked this to government support programmes, saying the state spends about BD66 million each year on housing, cost-of-living and social security allowances for divorced women.

A large share of current housing applications, he said, comes from divorced women or families that have separated because of divorce, which has added to pressure on the housing file.

On family reconciliation, Kadhem said settlement rates at the family reconciliation office had fallen while the number of re-

ferred cases had grown.

Some disputes were resolved, but most ended without agreement.

Worrying sign

He described this as a worrying sign in a country of about 700,000 people, and said it showed that family disputes were growing more tangled and that it was becoming harder to reach middle-ground solutions between spouses.

The legislator listed several factors he believes are linked to divorce, including weak communication within families, constant use of social media, economic pressure and higher living costs.

He also mentioned poor understanding of marriage, the impact of some media content,



“Almost half of cases end in divorce, which poses a direct threat to the cohesion of society.”

— MP JALAL KADHEM

interference from relatives and cases of domestic violence.

Effects

The effects cited included poorer school performance and mental health among children, weaker community ties, higher costs for the state and lower productivity among adults involved in family disputes.

Kadhem called for steps to address the issue.

He proposed a joint committee bringing together the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, the Supreme Council for Women, the Ministry of Social Development and the Interior Ministry to draw up a national plan for handling family cases.

He also urged the creation of advisory centres in every gov-

ernorate, stronger pre-marriage preparation through compulsory courses and a larger role for religious and community bodies. He further called for stricter control of media content which, in his words, 'breaks up families and encourages separation'.

The MP also criticised the ministry's reply to his question on the total number of cases before the Sharia courts. He said the figures provided covered only marriage and divorce, although he had asked for the total caseload, including maintenance, khul', custody, inheritance, waqf-related disputes, missing persons and other Sharia proofs. He said the data submitted did not answer the first part of his question to the minister.

Education Minister encourages students to read

Ghadeer Alkumaish
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His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak, Minister of Education, has underscored his deep passion for reading, sharing his appreciation for novels, biographies, and the value of physical books.

He revealed that his collection has been enriched by generous gifts from numerous publishers, which he now counts among his most valued personal treasures.

During his remarks at the opening ceremony of the Alay-

am Book Exhibition, H.E. Dr. Mubarak expressed heartfelt gratitude to Alayam newspaper for its pivotal role in organizing the event and inviting him to participate in such a distinguished cultural occasion.

Emphasizing the exhibition's significance, he described it as an important scientific and cultural gathering for the publishing community.

H.E. Dr. Mubarak highlighted the primary aim of such exhibitions: to inspire students especially those at the secondary and university levels to reconnect



H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak at the ribbon-cutting ceremony

with printed books and reduce overreliance on digital media.

He also praised the remarkable diversity of participating libraries and the broad spectrum of books featured, including novels, scientific publications, biographies, children's literature, and family-oriented books.

These diverse offerings, he noted, serve as a strong incentive to foster a lasting interest in reading among students.

Concluding his address, H.E. Dr. Mubarak encouraged the wider public to regularly visit book exhibitions.

Peninsula Farms: Growing Bahrain's green vision

Neethu Vayalakkara
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What began as a small hydroponic experiment in 2012 has grown into one of Bahrain's leading models of sustainable farming, a transformation personally driven by Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, General Manager of Peninsula Farms, who affectionately refers to it as Bahrain's farm.

What began with a few pipes, seedlings, and hopeful tinkering has now blossomed into a national success story.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune at the opening of the Farmers' Market 2025, Shaikh Rashid reflected on the farm's early mission, one with no frills attached: strengthen Bahrain's food security.



Shaikh Rashid bin Khalifa Al Khalifa is upbeat on Peninsula Farms' sustainable success

The early days featured hydroponic lettuce, tomatoes and peppers, humble beginnings that would later pave the way for nearly 35,000 square meters of open-field farming.

Lineup

With each new season, the farm expanded its lineup, grad-

ually replacing several imported items with homegrown alternatives.

A small victory here, a big milestone there, all adding up to more nutritious options for shoppers and a shorter farm-to-table journey.

Beyond produce, Peninsula Farms has become a playground

for sustainability ideas.

Its solar power initiative currently covers about 70% of the farm's energy needs, with 100% green firmly pinned on the vision board.

Solar isn't the only innovation shaping the farm's environmental footprint. Peninsula Farms follows a strict zero-waste philosophy, including transforming unsold goat milk into natural, high-quality soap.

"We learned how to make soap from returned milk instead of throwing it out. It's genuinely good quality," Shaikh Rashid says.

The farm also runs a composting program that invites hotels and restaurants to send back organic waste, which is then converted into compost for their tree-growing initiative.

MPs back urgent plan for disability services portal

Mohammed Darwish
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MPs have backed an urgent proposal to set up a unified national digital platform to bring together services, jobs, and support for persons with disabilities, linking key government bodies through a single online window.

During its Tuesday sitting, Parliament approved the urgent proposal, which calls for a 'one-stop' national platform handling employment, rehabilitation, care, and social support for persons with disabilities, while allowing users to apply for services and track requests in one place.

The system would be elec-



MP Mamdouh Al Saleh

tronically connected, according to powers and responsibilities, to the Ministry of Labour, the Civil Service Bureau, and the Ministry of Social Development, and coordinated with other related bodies such as the Health and Education ministries, and the Information and eGovernment Authority.