

Private autism experts may join public system

To cut waiting times and give families faster access to specialist support

● **Rising demand driving longer waiting lists**

● **Families struggling with private care costs**

● **Public centres to tap local expertise**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Families of children with autism could gain faster access to specialist care under a proposal to bring experienced Bahraini experts from private centres into government-run services.

The plan, put forward by MP Maryam Al Dhaen, calls for the Social Development Ministry to contract Bahraini specialists al-

ready working in private autism centres to provide their services at the ministry's Comprehensive Disability Complex.

The idea is to create a one-stop centre where people with autism registered with the ministry can receive care, education and behavioural support without families having to move between different providers.

According to the proposal, private autism centres in Bahrain have built up highly trained Bahraini teams with years of hands-on experience in the field. Bringing this expertise into the public sector, it says, would help strengthen services and improve the quality of support available through government facilities.

The move could also ease the financial pressure on families who struggle to afford private treatment while reducing waiting times for services at the Comprehen-

sive Disability Complex.

Ms Al Dhaen said support offered through the complex should go beyond care alone and include education programmes delivered under the supervision of the Education Ministry and in line with Bahrain's approved curriculum.

The proposal stresses the importance of early intervention for autism, warning that delays in specialist support can affect development and make inclusion more difficult later in life.

With demand for public

services continuing to rise and waiting lists growing, the proposal argues that drawing on Bahraini expertise already available in the private sector could provide quicker access to support while strengthening services within the public system.



Maryam Al Dhaen, MP

Green light for Galali's new community park

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Residents of Galali are a step closer to getting a new family park after tenders were issued for the long-awaited Wahat Muharraq Garden project in Block 255.

The Tender Board announced the project, submitted by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, paving the way for construction work to begin on the community space that has been in the pipeline since 2020.

Approved and designed during the previous municipal council term, the project has now entered the bidding stage after years of planning and follow-up efforts.

The park is envisioned as a family-friendly destination combining recreation, sports and green open spaces. Plans include a children's playground, a multi-purpose football pitch, shaded seating



areas, a central plaza, a decorative fountain, walkways, landscaped gardens and extensive tree planting.

The project will also feature a service building with toilets, a kiosk, a pump room, a water tank, a comprehensive irrigation system, lighting, perimeter fencing, entrances and parking spaces.

Tender documents will remain available until July 12, while bids must be submitted by July 26.

Construction is expected to take four months once work

begins. The tender carries a document fee of BD50, an initial bond of BD1,000 and a bid validity period of 180 days.

He said the scheme was the result of continuous efforts since its approval in 2020 and would provide residents with a modern public space bringing together leisure, sports and greenery.

"It will serve the people of Galali and Block 255 by offering a complete family destination that enhances quality of life and expands community facilities for citizens and residents alike," he said.

Saleh Buhazaa, vice-chairman of Muharraq Municipal Council



From maths teacher to ISB's longest-serving principal

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

After more than 40 years in education, outgoing Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Principal V.R. Palaniswamy says retirement marks not the end of learning, but the start of a new chapter.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Palaniswamy reflected on his 25-year journey at ISB, where he rose from mathematics teacher to become the school's longest-serving principal, having also served as Head of Department and Vice Principal.

Before joining ISB in 2001, he spent 15 years teaching in Chennai, India. Over the course of his career, he received the CBSE



V.R. Palaniswamy

National Teacher Award and the National Award to Teachers presented by the President of India.

Palaniswamy said some of his greatest lessons came from his students.

"I truly believe the child is the father of man. The smiling faces of children reminded me to stay curious, hopeful and humble," he said.

Having witnessed four dec-



V.R. Palaniswamy being recognised with the CBSE National Teacher Award

ades of change in classrooms, he pointed to the shift from teacher-led instruction to child-centred learning.

Under his leadership, ISB adopted smart classrooms, digital learning tools and innovative teaching methods while strengthening its global outlook through UNESCO programmes.

"By adapting while preserving our values, we ensured our stu-

dents remained future-ready," he said. While proud of ISB's achievements, including its "Good" rating from the Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority, Palaniswamy said the real measure of success was the impact on students.

"I hope people remember me as someone who always placed students at the heart of every decision," he said.

As he prepares to step down, Palaniswamy said he will miss his daily interactions with students the most and urged educators to lead with sincerity, integrity and humility.

Looking ahead, he plans to remain active in education through mentoring, student support and other educational initiatives.

FROM THE COURT

Rehab Mohammed
TDT | Manama

Court tells Ethiopian woman: Your marriage to a US citizen is valid



Lawyer Ammar Al-Taranjah

An Ethiopian woman has won a legal battle to have her marriage officially recognised after Bahrain's Supreme Administrative Court ruled in her favour following the death of her American husband in the United States.

The court ordered the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments to issue an official certificate confirming the validity of the marriage.

According to the woman's lawyer, Ammar Al-Taranjah, the couple were married at St Christopher's Cathedral in Manama in a church ceremony recognised under Bahrain's laws governing non-Muslim marriages. However,

after her husband's passing in the United States, her request for an official marriage certificate was rejected, prompting her to take the matter to court.

In its ruling, the court found that the marriage had been conducted in full compliance with Bahrain's legal framework for non-Muslim unions and was also consistent with California family law, which recognises marriages lawfully performed abroad. Concluding that the union did not violate Bahrain's public order, the court directed the ministry to issue an official certificate validating the church marriage, bringing the woman's years-long effort for recognition to a successful close.

Five years in jail for BD12,000 banking scam

A man who pocketed more than BD12,000 through an online banking scam will spend five years behind bars after an appeals court upheld his conviction and ordered his deportation upon release.

The court also imposed a BD10,000 fine, handed down an additional one-month jail term, and ordered the confiscation of the mobile phone used in the crime.

Court records showed that the defendant, acting with an unidentified accomplice, tricked a man in his fifties into entering his bank card details through a fake online rewards and complaints process. The deception allowed the

fraudsters to gain access to the victim's account and siphon off BD12,756.

Investigators found that the defendant activated a banking application linked to the victim's account and received BD10,000 through six separate transfers on the day of the fraud.

Authorities further discovered that part of the stolen funds was spent using credit cards, while another portion was transferred to a cryptocurrency platform.

The conviction was backed by technical and financial evidence, including bank transaction records and phone communications linking the defendant to the scheme.

Invalid power of attorney sinks fraud appeal

A forgery and fraud convict has exhausted his legal options after the Court of Cassation dismissed his final appeal on procedural grounds, leaving his prison sentence, fine and deportation order intact.

The court ruled that the cassation challenge was inadmissible because the lawyer who filed it lacked the necessary legal authority due to an invalid power of attorney.

The defendant had been convicted of forging a docu-



ment falsely attributed to a bank and using it to deceive a victim into handing over money.

He was sentenced to two years in prison, fined BD1,000, ordered to be deported after completing his sentence, and the forged document was confiscated.

The conviction and penalties had already been upheld during earlier appeal proceedings. With the final appeal rejected, the judgment has become definitive, bringing the case to a close.