

Optional School Tests Record 94pc Attendance

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Education Minister Mohammed Juma said that attendance in several recent optional school examinations exceeded 94 per cent across public and private schools, highlighting strong student discipline.

Speaking in a video message posted on social media on Tuesday, Juma said pupils had turned up in large numbers for assessments conducted by the Ministry of Education and the Education and Training Quality Authority, despite some of the tests not being compulsory.

"I wanted to speak today because I was so pleased by the discipline shown by boys and girls in public and private schools," he said, rejecting suggestions that students preferred distance learning or were avoiding school responsibilities.

The minister said Grade Four students recorded more than



We are very pleased with the discipline shown by students in public and private schools.

MOHAMMED JUMA, EDUCATION MINISTER

94 per cent attendance in the PIRLS international reading assessment, which measures literacy levels after the first years of schooling. He added that Bahrain participates in the test to evaluate curricula and

teaching methods.

He also reported similarly high participation in TIMSS, the international mathematics and science assessment for Grade Four and Grade Eight students, where attendance exceeded 94 per cent and 95 per cent respectively among registered pupils.

National examinations for Grade Nine and Grade Twelve students recorded attendance rates of between 94 and 96 per cent, he said, describing the figures as evidence of "the highest levels of discipline" among students.

"Some people did not even expect us to reach 50 per cent," Juma said. "As soon as schools informed students about national exams, they came and sat them."

He also cited assessment tests for students entering the International Baccalaureate programme next year, noting that more than 3,000 students took part with a 98 per cent attendance rate.

Teen Drug Ring Exposed

Rehab Mohammad
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A criminal case involving four Asian nationals, aged 16 to 19, is currently being heard in Bahrain over allegations of drug trafficking, importation, and possession of narcotics. One defendant remains at large outside the Kingdom.

According to case documents, the accused are alleged to have formed an organised network during 2025 to import illegal drugs, including cannabis, heroin, and morphine, from abroad

and distribute them within Bahrain. Authorities say the group used covert methods such as a "dead drop" system, where narcotics were received and later redistributed for payment.

The first, second, third, and fourth defendants are accused of playing structured roles within the network, including importation, collection, packaging, and distribution of drugs.

Investigations revealed that on 9 September 2025, a customs officer at Bahrain International Airport flagged a suspicious

parcel arriving from Thailand during X-ray screening. The package was found to contain five bags suspected to hold marijuana, weighing around 1.4 kilograms.

Authorities said that on the following day, the third defendant attempted to collect the parcel after being directed by the first defendant, reportedly in exchange for a payment of BD 3.

The court has adjourned the case to 12 May 2026 to allow defence lawyers to submit their arguments.

First groups of Hajj mission set to depart Thursday



Hajj mission begins distributing Nusk cards to 4,625 Bahraini pilgrims through licensed campaigns ahead of Thursday's first departures, in coordination with Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to streamline procedures for entry into the holy sites.

National Unity Stressed

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The Writers and Authors Family in Bahrain affirmed that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's remarks to the media clearly

reinforce the nation's firm stance on safeguarding the Kingdom of Bahrain's security and stability.

In a statement issued by the group, it said His Majesty's message strongly underlined

that Bahrain's security and stability are a non-negotiable priority, and that national responsibility requires a clear and decisive position in addressing challenges without hesitation or ambiguity.

Bahrain US Ties



Minister of Housing and Urban Planning H.E. Amina bint Ahmed Al Romaihi received U.S. Ambassador H.E. Stephanie Lyn Hallett, where both sides highlighted the strong and historic Bahrain-U.S. relations and discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Germany Cooperation



Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications received Henning Simon, the German Ambassador, highlighting strong bilateral ties and discussing the expansion of cooperation in the transport, communications, and logistics sectors.

Illegal Fishing Seizure



Coast Guard seized 377 illegal fishing traps and nets over the past three months of 2026 (February-April) as part of ongoing efforts to protect Bahrain's marine resources and ensure compliance with fishing regulations.

Southern Staff Honoured



Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications received Henning Simon, the German Ambassador, highlighting strong bilateral ties and discussing the expansion of cooperation in the transport, communications, and logistics sectors.

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BD 15



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