

Diplomatic missions praise Bahrain's leadership and community safety

Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, Japan and Philippine envoys commend proactive measures to protect residents

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's swift and coordinated response to regional tensions has earned praise and gratitude from multiple diplomatic missions in the Kingdom, reflecting confidence in the authorities' ability to safeguard all residents.

Deep sense of confidence

The Embassy of Sri Lanka expressed "sincere gratitude to the Bahraini government for its steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of the Sri Lankan community," highlighting the proactive support provided by authorities through high-level briefings and daily updates via the Ministry of Interior's Al Madar Centre. The Embassy noted that transparent communication channels have "instilled a deep sense of confidence and reassurance among both embassy officials and community members."

Ambassador of Bangladesh

Similarly, the Ambassador of Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Md. Rais Hasan Sarower, praised the professionalism and prudence of Bahraini authorities in ensuring



“The effective use of public warning sirens and rapid establishment of shelter facilities has been instrumental in safeguarding lives.”

THE AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH, H.E. MR. MD. RAIS HASAN SAROWER



“We commend the Ministry of Interior, Bahrain Defence Force, and security units for their professionalism and bravery in defending the Kingdom's sovereignty.”

THE PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR, H.E. GINES JAIME RICARDO D. GALLAGA



“The transparent communication channels provided by the authorities have instilled a deep sense of confidence and reassurance among our officials and community members.”

H.E. SHANIKA DISSANAYAKE, SRI LANKAN AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN



“Japan stands shoulder to shoulder with Bahrain in these challenging times. It is our sincere and earnest hope that hostilities will come to an immediate end.”

HE MS ASAKO OKAI, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

precipitate the swift crisis response that prioritises the protection of lives,” the Ambassador said.

Philippine Ambassador

The Philippine Ambassador, H.E. Gines Jaime Ricardo D. Gallaga, also extended profound thanks to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, noting their “inclusive care provided to all residents during this unprecedented period.” Ambassador Gallaga praised field visits to shelters across Bahrain, highlighting the “warm hospitality” and essential support offered to over 55,000 Filipino nationals. He added that the professionalism and bravery of the Ministry of Interior, Bahrain Defence Force, and security units reinforced his confidence in Bahrain's internal stability and security.

Officials from all four missions emphasised the importance of maintaining communication with authorities, adhering to safety instructions, and avoiding the spread of unverified information, reflecting a strong collaboration between diplomatic representatives and Bahraini authorities.

the safety of all residents, including the large Bangladeshi community. He commended the use of public warning sirens, rapid

shelter establishment, and continuous coordination between the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladeshi leader-

ship. He also expressed gratitude for the condolences extended by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa

Al Khalifa following the tragic death of a Bangladeshi national due to missile debris. “We ap-

Four arrested for filming attack aftermath and spreading false news



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The Ministry of Interior has announced that the Anti-Cybercrime Directorate at the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security has identified and arrested four individuals for misusing social media.

The suspects reportedly filmed and circulated videos related to the aftermath of Iranian aggression, including footage from military sites, in ways that violated the law and spread false information.

The Ministry warned that sharing such content can mislead public opinion, create fear among citizens and residents, and undermine security and public order.

Legal proceedings have been initiated, and the case has been referred to the Public Prosecution.

The Ministry urged the public to rely on official sources for information and avoid reposting unverified videos or news, cautioning that doing so may result in legal consequences and threaten national safety.

BD500 fee for firms missing Bahrainisation targets

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Companies that fail to meet Bahrainisation targets may be charged BD500 for each expatriate work permit, the Ministry of Labour said.

In a written reply to Shura Council member Dr Ebtisam Al Dallal, the ministry said the 2023-2026 national labour market plan prioritises hiring Bahrainis while allowing expatriate recruitment where employers demonstrate genuine need.

Prepared under Decree-Law No. 21 of 2021, the plan was approved by the Cabinet on 26

June 2023 and published in the Official Gazette on 3 July 2023.

The ministry said the strategy focuses on creating better jobs for Bahrainis, aligning education with labour market needs, strengthening private sector partnerships, and supporting investment while protecting workers' rights.

Bahrainisation rules apply across all sectors, with some reaching 50 per cent localisation. Compliance is monitored automatically through the Labour Market Regulatory Authority's electronic systems.

To encourage hiring Bahrainis, wage support schemes cover up to 70% in the first year,

50% in the second and 30% in the third, with support ceilings raised to BD800 for graduates, BD600 for diploma holders and BD450 for secondary-level workers.

The ministry also said fees on expatriate labour have been increased to narrow the cost gap with local hires. Around 80% of these fees go to Tamkeen, which funds wage support and business development programmes. Under Cabinet Resolution No. 79 of 2025, work permit fees will rise gradually until 2029, while monthly levies will increase annually to BD30 per worker, excluding domestic workers.

Grace period proposed for LMRA violations

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Lawmakers have proposed introducing a warning mechanism to alert employers before suspending services on the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) system over violations.

The proposal, submitted by MP Khalid Buanaq and reviewed by the Services Committee, calls for granting employers a 10-day period to cor-



MP Khalid Buanaq

rect violations before access to the system is suspended.

Supporters say the measure would help prevent sudden disruptions to business oper-

ations, particularly for small and medium enterprises that rely heavily on the authority's electronic platform to manage labour procedures.

MPs backing the initiative noted that unexpected suspension of system access can create operational challenges for companies.

If approved, the proposal could lead to a procedural change in how the LMRA handles compliance issues within its electronic system.

Civil court hearings move online from Sunday

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Civil court hearings will move online from Sunday under a measure announced by the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf in coordination with the Supreme Judicial Council.

The ministry said hearings will be conducted through the remote litigation service available on its website, moj.gov.bh, placing civil cases under a unified digital system.

Users will access the platform through the upgraded eKey 2.0 system, which uses facial recognition and allows secure login without the need for passwords.

According to the ministry, each session will remain under the full supervision of the presiding judge. The platform also enables documents to be presented and exchanged electronically during hearings, while both parties can submit their arguments directly through the system.

The ministry added that the digital process preserves all legal safeguards related to access to justice and the right to a fair trial, in accordance with existing laws and procedures.