

Lujain Goes Home

Bahrain's Second Gene Therapy Victory in Sickle Cell Fight

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Royal Medical Services announced another milestone in gene therapy, following the successful treatment of a Bahraini patient with sickle cell disease using the advanced gene-editing therapy Casgevy.

Major General Dr. Shaikh Fahad bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services, said the continued progress in gene therapy and stem cell transplantation reflects the high standard of Bahrain's military medical sector and its commitment to delivering advanced precision treatments in line with international standards.

He expressed pride in the support provided by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, as well as the backing of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, saying this support has helped drive medical innovation and improve healthcare services in the Kingdom.

His remarks came during a visit to the patient, Lujain, following the completion of her treatment under the Gene Therapy and Stem Cell Transplantation Programme for inherited blood disorders. She has since



“We remain committed to providing the latest precision treatments in line with the highest international medical standards.”

been discharged in good health and is now in the final stage of recovery.

The Bahrain Oncology Centre, which is part of the Royal Medical Services, said the treatment was carried out using Casgevy, a CRISPR/Cas9-based gene-editing therapy developed by Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics. The centre described it as a major breakthrough offering long-term improvement for patients with inherited blood diseases.



This is the second successful gene therapy case for sickle cell disease in Bahrain under the programme

Dr. Edward Rowland, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Oncology Centre, said the success marks another step forward for Bahrain in precision medicine, highlighting local medical teams' ability to deliver highly complex treatments in line with global standards.

Dr. Noora Butti, Head of the programme, said the patient will continue follow-up care and is expected to return to normal daily activities within months, adding that further similar suc-

Three Hours of Sleep, One Bigger Dream

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Ghadeer Alkumaish



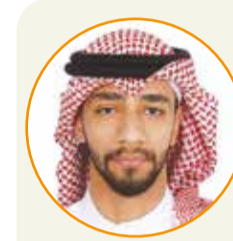
A 22-year-old Bahraini entrepreneur has turned a simple idea into a growing home-based business while balancing university life, building his brand Waraqatna around his passion for stuffed grape leaves.

Entrepreneur Ali Aldakheel

ticularly challenging, with slow sales and limited growth leaving him uncertain about continuing. Balancing academic pressure with an emerging business tested his patience and commitment.

“After months without seeing clear progress, I felt discouraged,” Aldakheel said. “But I kept going and reminded myself that success takes patience and consistency.”

Beyond business results, Aldakheel says the most meaning-



“Don't rush success, Keep going even when results are slow. One day, the effort will make sense.”

ALI ALDAKHEEL

said his journey began with a clear intention: to become financially independent, ease the pressure on his family, and gain real-world experience before graduation. What started as ambition quickly developed into a demanding routine that runs alongside his studies.

His day begins before sunrise, when he prepares orders for Waraqatna before heading to university. Between lectures, assignments, and exams, he manages operations and returns home later to continue working late into the night.

“There were days I slept only three hours before going to university,” he said.

The early months were par-

ful motivation came from small acts of kindness from customers and his family's continuous support. “Sometimes customers offered water, food, or small gestures of kindness,” he said. “Those moments stayed with me.”

Now still at the beginning of his journey, he believes many young entrepreneurs underestimate the time and effort required to build something sustainable. He encourages others to stay patient and trust the process rather than expecting immediate success.

For Aldakheel, Waraqatna is still growing but so is he, shaped by long days, short nights, and the determination to build something of his own.

New School Year with 96% Pass Rate



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The Education Ministry wraps up one successful year — and immediately starts building the next

Bahrain is already in full preparation mode for the upcoming 2026–2027 academic year, with Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma personally leading the charge.

Chairing the Committee for the Start of the Academic Year, the minister confirmed that all educational, administrative and support teams are aligned and working to ensure a strong start to the new term — even as the current school year draws to a close.

A Year to Be Proud Of

The committee opened by reviewing this year's achievements — and the headline number speaks for itself: secondary school students recorded a pass rate of approximately 96%, which the committee formally approved at the meeting.

The academic calendar for

2026–2027 has been officially approved, covering all key term dates, milestones, school breaks and events. Parents and students can already access the full calendar on the Ministry of Education's official website.

The minister acknowledged the ongoing support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, describing their backing as central to raising the kingdom's education standards.

Relevant departments have been assigned clear responsibilities, with teams tasked to continue monitoring progress and completing preparations ahead of the new school year.

Labour Ministry raises awareness on midday work restrictions



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Ministry of Labour organised a workshop to raise awareness about implementing Ministerial Decision No. (5) of 2026, which regulates the summer midday work ban.

The decision, effective from June 15 until August 31, prohibits outdoor work under direct sunlight between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. to safeguard workers during the peak summer heat.

The workshop brought together employers, occupational safety and health officials, and private sector representatives to discuss the regulation's requirements and necessary compliance measures.

The ministry stated the initiative is part of its wider efforts to supervise the decision's implementation and strengthen awareness of occupational health and safety standards during the summer months, when temperatures and humidity levels rise significantly.

Officials also highlighted preventive measures and best practices aimed at reducing the risks of heat stress and creating a safer and more productive working environment.

Ban on outdoor work under direct sunlight

Duration: June 15 – August 31, 2026

Restricted hours: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Protect workers from heat stress and related health risks.

Field inspections, awareness campaigns, and inter-agency coordination.

Employer responsibilities: Provide heat protection measures, ensure worker safety

Odometer Readings Sought for Annual Car Tests



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Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to record car odometer readings during Bahrain's annual vehicle inspection has been studied by Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee as part of efforts to curb mileage fraud in the used-car market.

Submitted by MP Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, the proposal asks the government to link each vehicle's odometer to the yearly test, with the reading logged electronically in the Traffic Directorate's vehicle record report. Buyers would then be able to check earlier readings before buying a used car.

Al Ahmed said the proposal follows repeated cases of sellers lowering recorded mileage to raise sale prices. He said the practice harms buyers, weakens trust in the market and raises road safety risks by hiding the true use of a vehicle.

The proposal also calls for stiffer penalties for anyone found to have tampered with an odometer to mislead buyers. Al Ahmed said many consumers have weak means of checking a car's true mileage,



Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed, MP



Authorities track odometer readings during annual inspections to build a verified mileage record and prevent fraud. In the EU, these readings are stored in national databases to help detect and deter tampering.

while the practice has spread in a way that makes an official record necessary.

The matter was among items studied by the committee during the fourth ordinary session of the sixth legislative term.