

Healthcare challenge

Bahrain records over 1,400 cancer cases and 4,500 dialysis patients in 2024

● **1,230 cases are Bahrainis and 171 non-Bahrainis**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

More than 1,400 cancer cases were logged in Bahrain in 2024, and 4,547 dialysis patients were registered in the same year, the Ministry of Health has told Parliament in a written reply to MP Jalal Kadhem.

The ministry said the National Cancer Registry counted 1,230 cases among Bahrainis in 2024 and 171 among non-Bahrainis.

For kidney failure, it said 4,547 patients were registered for dialysis during the year, including 4,298 Bahrainis and 249 non-Bahrainis.

Diagnoses

The figures show cancer diagnoses among Bahrainis were concentrated in older age groups.

Bahraini men accounted for 535 cases, with the highest numbers in the 65–69 and 70–74 brackets.

Bahraini women recorded 695 cases, with the largest counts in the 60–64 and 65–69 brackets.

Among non-Bahrainis, the

ministry recorded 78 cases in men and 93 in women, mostly aged 40–64.

List

The ministry also listed the stage of disease for registered cancer cases in 2024.

It said 50.68 per cent were recorded as localised, meaning the cancer was limited to the original organ.

Distant metastasis accounted for 12.67 per cent.

Another 12.53 per cent were recorded as “unknown”, which the ministry said meant the stage at first diagnosis, before treatment began, was not known.

Leukaemia

A further 7.42 per cent were recorded as “not applicable”, such as leukaemia.

On dialysis, the ministry said Bahraini men were the largest group, at 2,720 patients, compared with 1,578 Bahraini women.

Non-Bahraini dialysis patients totalled 249, including 95 men and 154 women.

Dialysis services are delivered at the unit at Salmaniya Medical Complex and the Abdulrahman Kanoo Dialysis Centre, the ministry said.

It reported 47,064 visits by kidney patients in 2024, including dialysis sessions.

Of those, 44,976 visits were by



Image used for illustrative purposes only



MP Jalal Kadhem

eating and exercise, and said primary care centres run screening for breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancers, with suspected cases referred for further tests and treatment planning.

For kidney disease, it said primary care centres keep close watch on higher-risk groups, especially patients with diabetes and high blood pressure, through periodic laboratory tests under approved protocols, with referral to kidney specialists when results suggest impaired function.

Vaccination

The ministry also pointed to vaccination as part of prevention, citing HPV and hepatitis B vaccination as measures that reduce the risk of some cancers.

It added that public health teams oversee food safety and product checks using Gulf standards and relevant international references, and monitor goods entering through border points alongside other bodies responsible for national technical rules.

On cancer risk factors, the ministry cited tobacco use, unhealthy diets, obesity, certain infections such as HPV and hepatitis B, genetic factors and changes in cells, including DNA mutations, as among the common factors linked to adult cancers.

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Bahrainis and 2,088 by non-Bahrainis, by nationality and sex.

Care

It said care for cancer and kidney failure is delivered through primary healthcare centres, government hospitals, the Bahrain Oncology Centre and dialysis units, with cases treated within the government system under current protocols.

Where a patient needs specialist care not available in Bahrain, the ministry said they can be referred abroad under clear medical criteria.

In 2024, it said 163 oncology

cases were sent abroad.

Saudi Arabia received 58 cases, Jordan 44 and Turkey 42, while 10 cases went to Germany, five to India, two to the United Kingdom, and one each to Thailand and Kuwait.

Budget

The ministry did not give a separate budget figure for cancer and kidney failure care, saying spending sits within the budget for treatment abroad, subject to the Higher Committee for Treatment Abroad.

The reply also gave death figures for 2024.

The ministry said 525 deaths were from cancer, including 467 among Bahrainis and 58 among non-Bahrainis.

It recorded 65 deaths from kidney failure, including 56 among Bahrainis and nine among non-Bahrainis.

Plan

On prevention and early detection, the ministry said it has a cancer prevention and control plan linked to wider work on non-communicable diseases and related risk factors.

It cited public awareness campaigns on tobacco use, healthy

Two Arab defendants face trial for human trafficking

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has begun hearing a case involving two Arab defendants accused of trafficking two women, both aged 23.

During a hearing held yesterday, both defendants denied the charges brought against them.

The female defendant told the court that she had arrived in Bahrain only six days earlier and did not know anyone in the country, a claim supported by the first defendant.

Review

The court adjourned the case to 19 January to allow the defence to review and respond to the case file, authorised the

provision of copies of the case documents, and appointed a lawyer to represent the second defendant. The court also ordered the continued detention of both defendants.

According to the Public Prosecution, the first defendant, aged 51, and the second defendant, aged 36, are accused of trafficking the two victims by recruiting, transporting, receiving, harbouring and moving them through illegal means, with the intent of exploiting them in prostitution for financial gain.

Detention

Prosecutors said the defendants unlawfully detained the victims, coerced them through threats, deception and force,



Intelligence information, supported by investigations, confirmed that the defendants had deceived the victims with promises of employment in Bahrain before exploiting them and forcing them into prostitution.

and relied entirely on the proceeds generated from the victims' activities.

In her testimony, the first victim said that while in her home country she had seen a Facebook advertisement offering employment in Bahrain as a restaurant worker.

She contacted the first defendant and agreed to the job. Around the same time, the second victim informed her that she had also found a work opportunity in Bahrain, and arrangements were made by the defendants for both women to travel.

She added that upon their arrival, they were met at Bahrain International Airport by the first defendant accompanied by an Asian national driver.

Fitness centre to pay BD2,000 to Bahraini trainer for unpaid employment dues and interest



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TDT | Manama

rate of BD5 per training hour and performed her duties diligently throughout her employment.

However, the centre failed to pay her wages for a period of two years, accumulating unpaid dues amounting to BD2,000.

The lawyer said her client formally notified the centre and granted it time to settle the outstanding wages, but payment was not made.

As a result, the trainer left her job due to continued non-payment and the failure to settle her employment entitlements.

She added that a lawsuit was filed based on Article 40(b)(4) of the Labour Law, which stipulates that upon termination of employment, an employer must immediately pay all wages and dues owed to the employee.

New phase of East Muharraq seafront project announced

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

East Muharraq's seafront is due for a new phase of works through a partnership with the private sector, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture has told Parliament, with two sites on Road 65 to be turned into a leisure waterfront and public coast.

In a written reply to a question

from MP Hisham Al Asheeri, the ministry said the plan follows earlier work delivered through Sama Bay, a beach project on Dry Dock Highway on the way to Amwaj Islands.

The ministry said it is progressing ahead with upgrades to waterfronts and coastlines as public spaces for leisure and for practising healthy sports, adding that the East Muharraq plan is split into stages.

It said the first stage covered Sama Bay, which stretches for up to two kilometres and includes two beaches, a retail outlet, a food-truck area, a promenade, two padel courts and a football pitch.

The second stage, the ministry said, will develop two plots on Road 65 under the same private-sector partnership model. It put the first plot's area at 50,866 square metres and the

second at 51,741 square metres.

Plans for the sites include a promenade, a cycle track, seating areas, green spaces, a play area, outdoor warm-up fitness equipment and a services building, it said.

The ministry added that preliminary designs have been completed, and that it is coordinating with relevant bodies to study listing the coastline among partnership projects.