

Legal action to be taken against illegal gathering

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The Deputy Chief of Police, Lt-General Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, said that legal action will be taken against any illegal gathering, particularly in light of clear government directives to intensify efforts to employ citizens.

He noted that the Ministry of Labour has announced precise mechanisms and digital platforms that allow job seekers to submit and follow up on employment applications with full transparency and ease through the National Employment Platform.

He also noted that applicants wishing to attend in person must book an appointment in advance, starting Sunday, 11 January 2026, to access employment and unemployment insurance services.

In light of these government initiatives and measures to address employment, the Deputy Chief of Police stressed that all necessary legal actions will be taken against gatherings that violate the law.

He further emphasised the importance of upholding the supreme national interest, preserving the country's accomplishments.

Tougher sanctions

Parliament passes urgent government-drafted bill tightening rules for external auditors

Mohammed Darwish
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An urgent government-drafted bill tightening Bahrain's external audit rules was passed by Parliament yesterday, bringing tougher entry terms for auditors and a wider set of penalties for breaches.

The law amends Decree-Law No. 15 of 2021 and was pushed through on the fast track alongside Royal Decree No. 76 of 2025.

It also swaps the old disciplinary council for a new 'Account Auditors Accountability Council', expands quality checks on audit work and adds fresh duties on transparency for auditors who sign off accounts for listed firms and key public bodies.

Oversight

Minister of Industry and Commerce, His Excellency Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, told MPS the law sits at the heart of the ministry's corporate oversight, saying, "This law is one of the most important laws the ministry relies on for financial oversight of companies."



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— H.E. ABDULLA BIN ADEL FAKHRO, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

He said the changes were meant to lift governance, open up clearer disclosure, and raise the standard of audit work in Bahrain.

Fakhro said the draft put before the chamber was not rushed together overnight.

"It came after many rounds that took more than three years of negotiation and consultation

with all relevant bodies," he said, adding that the talks covered the Central Bank of Bahrain, professional groups and both public and private bodies.

He said the government had put Bahrainisation front and centre, arguing that the profession should be led locally.

"This law gives the highest priority to Bahrainisation and

protecting the auditing profession," he told MPS.

During the debate, MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi backed the bill in principle but questioned the route used to send it to the chamber under the Constitution's urgency article, saying, "Article 87 is meant to avoid harm that can follow when deciding some laws is delayed."

He also urged a clearer, more consistent yardstick across laws on when a profession is reserved for Bahrainis, and warned against giving too much of the detail over to later ministerial decisions.

Certificate

At the entry gate, the new text makes a valid professional accounting certificate a condition for registration as a practising external auditor, alongside conduct and experience tests.

It also adds extra terms for non-Bahrainis, including proof they remain fit to practise in the country where they last worked, and gives the minister wider scope to set rules on what counts as accepted experience, including work gained abroad.

Deportation order lifted by appeals court

Mohammed Darwish
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An appeals court has scrapped a three-year deportation order against a defendant convicted of unlawful residence after the court was shown papers confirming his status in the Kingdom had been put in order, while keeping a 10-dinar fine that it suspended for three years.

According to lawyer Jassim Al Issa, the court upheld the first-instance finding that the defendant stayed in Bahrain after his residence permit had expired and was not renewed, based on the case file.

It changed only the penalty once it had been given proof that his position had been corrected.

Prosecutors said the defendant remained in the country unlawfully up to 9 November 2022, after his visa ended without renewal.

The charge was brought under provisions of the Penal Code and the Foreigners Law.

At first instance, the court ruled on 6 August 2024 to accept an objection on procedural grounds, cancel a penal order and treat it as if it had never been issued, then convict the defendant and fine him BD10.

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