

Flex Learning Rolls

Students and parents welcome Bahrain's decision on learning options

● A hybrid approach supports diverse family needs

● Empowered to manage teaching methods

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

Parents and students across Bahrain have expressed strong support for the government's new decision allowing families to choose between online learning and classroom attendance for the remainder of the academic term, calling it a practical and balanced approach to education.

Many parents said the move restores confidence in classroom learning while still providing flexibility. "In-person learning is better for students because they stay focused and disciplined in school," said Subhash. "We trust the government and will send our children if schools are open."

His daughter shared her excitement about returning to school, saying, "I want to go back



"We trust the government's decision,"

SUBHASH & FAMILY

to school. I miss my friends."

Other students shared similar views, highlighting the benefits of face-to-face interaction with teachers. "Offline learning is better because you can directly ask questions and clear doubts," one student told The Daily Tribune, adding that classroom teaching improves understand-



“One-on-one interaction in the classroom makes understanding much easier than online classes,”

- STUDENT



“I miss my school and want to return as soon as possible,”

- STUDENT



“They don't study properly and too much screen time can affect their eyes,”

RESIDENT

ing compared to online lessons. A Filipino child also expressed joy at the return option, saying, "I miss my school. I want to go back as soon as possible."

Her mother acknowledged the challenges of balancing work and home responsibilities but said in-person schooling remains the preferred option for many families.

An elderly resident also supported the shift, noting concerns that prolonged screen time and

remote learning may affect children's study habits and eye health.

The positive reactions follow a new policy announced by Education Minister Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, under which all public school students from Year 1 to Year 12 can choose between remote and in-person learning for the rest of the term.

Private schools have also been given flexibility to decide their own teaching and examination

arrangements based on their systems and capabilities.

The initiative aims to balance educational continuity with family needs, while allowing schools greater autonomy in managing learning delivery.

As Bahrain rolls out this flexible education model, families now play a central role in deciding the most suitable learning path for their children, marking a shift toward a more adaptable and inclusive education system.

Cancer Survivor Flies Home



Dulce Bose Lloroso, a 48-year-old cancer patient and salon receptionist from San Fernando, Masbate, and Alberto Salalap Sumpay Jr., a 52-year-old florist and stroke survivor from Talisay, Iloilo, were part of the fifth batch of repatriation efforts for overseas Filipinos. This group consisted of 153 individuals, which included 107 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and 46 dependents.

Lloroso, employed in Bahrain for 15 years, received a breast cancer diagnosis in 2024. She underwent eight chemotherapy sessions and subsequently had surgery in July 2025, necessitating ongoing medical support before her repatriation.

According to Lloroso, "I did not hesitate to make the decision; at last, I will be able to go home," as her 18-year-old daughter eagerly awaits her return.

Walking Out Won't Be Easy

Parliament extends travel ban on debtors to three years



Hassan Barakat

Parliament approved legislative amendments extending travel bans on debtors for up to three years. This move aims to strengthen the enforcement of court rulings and prevent the evasion of financial obligations. The draft law was forwarded to the Shura Council for further review.

The amendment to Article 40 of the Civil and Commercial Execution Law empowers courts to impose travel bans on

individuals who may attempt to leave the country to avoid paying debts, particularly in cases where declared assets are insufficient to cover outstanding amounts.

Under the existing framework, travel bans can be imposed for a maximum of three months and renewed for up to nine months. The revised legislation increases this period significantly, allowing restrictions of up to three years, while maintaining full judicial oversight.

Private school job cuts prompt Ministry intervention

The Ministry of Labour confirmed it intervened after social media reports suggested a private educational institution planned to terminate several national employees.

According to the ministry, it held a series of meetings with the concerned institution, the latest took place yesterday. These discussions resulted

in a preliminary agreement aimed at preserving the stability of national employees through a set of proposed solutions and corrective measures to be implemented by the institution's management.

The ministry added that it will finalize further details of the agreed solutions in the coming days.

Toxic Gas Concern

Understanding Ammonia Gas Exposure and Its Health Impact

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TDT | Manama
Neethu V

Ammonia, a key industrial chemical used in fertilizing global agriculture and supporting Bahrain's petrochemical sector, has come under renewed scrutiny following a recent industrial incident in Sitra.

Widely produced from natural gas and air under high pressure, ammonia plays a vital role in global manufacturing but is also a hazardous substance requiring strict safety controls.

Following the incident, the Ministry of Interior confirmed that the situation was swiftly contained with no major impact reported, crediting the prompt response of government teams and relevant authorities.

However, officials emphasized the importance of strictly following civil defense instructions during any chemical-related emergencies, particularly in industrial zones. The Ministry urged the public to rely on official guidance available through the National Civil Protection Platform, stressing that awareness and compliance with safety procedures—especially those related to ammonia gas leaks—are essential to protecting lives.



Authorities in Bahrain took swift safety measures, including temporary evacuations in eastern Sitra, after an ammonia gas incident.



“The strong smell of ammonia is often the first warning sign, and symptoms such as burning of the eyes, nose, and throat can begin almost immediately.”

DR IMAN CHEFFI



“In aquatic environments, ammonia contamination can disrupt ecosystems by contributing to eutrophication and harming marine life.”

KAI MEITHIG

Environmental and health experts have also highlighted the risks associated with ammonia exposure. Kai Meithig, a sustainability advocate and environmental consultant, noted that ammonia is a strong irritant even at relatively low concentrations and can quickly affect human health upon exposure.

"In the air, ammonia is a highly irritating gas and, in the environment, it is a reactive nitrogen pollutant that can contribute to

broader air- and water-quality concerns," Meithig said. He further warned that in industrial regions where ammonia is widely handled, accidental releases—though rare—can pose environmental and public health risks if safety controls fail. He also noted that aquatic contamination can lead to eutrophication, harming marine ecosystems and disrupting ecological balance.

Health guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) states that high levels of ammonia can severely irritate and burn the skin, eyes, throat, and lungs.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Dr. Iman Cheffi, General Practitioner and founder of Ebditar, said the strong odor of ammonia is often the first warning sign of exposure, with symptoms such as burning of the eyes, nose, and throat appearing almost immediately. She warned that exposure to high concentrations in enclosed spaces can become life-threatening within minutes, poten-

tially causing airway swelling or laryngeal edema and leading to severe respiratory complications. While mild exposure may resolve, severe cases can result in long-term airway damage or chronic lung conditions.

Authorities and medical experts continue to stress that rapid response, public awareness, and strict adherence to safety protocols remain essential to minimizing risks associated with industrial chemical incidents.