



General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior, received US Ambassador to Bahrain Stephanie Hallett, in the presence of Lieutenant General Tariq Al Hassan, Chief of Police.

Arab Media Enters a New Digital Era



Information Minister Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi attended the opening of the Arab Media Summit 2026 in the United Arab Emirates. The summit was held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Second Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Media Council.

Dr. Al Noaimi stressed the importance of Arab media conferences and events as the sector

undergoes rapid technological and structural changes.

He said the challenges and opportunities emerging from these developments highlight the need for continued dialogue and the exchange of views on the future of the media industry. Such discussions, he added, can contribute to developing media practices and keeping pace with changes in how content is produced and consumed.

The minister described the Arab Media Summit as an important platform for media leaders and experts to discuss key issues and trends shaping the present and future of the industry.

One Law for Medical Errors Faces Legal Doubts

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A Shura-drafted medical liability bill would leave hospitals and clinics outside its definition of a service provider while giving a new disciplinary committee final rulings, two objections raised by the government as MPs prepare to debate the plan.

Parliament's Services Committee has filed its report on the 34-article bill, while the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee has raised constitutional doubts over parts of it.

The government has called for the draft to be reconsidered. Other points at issue include the lack of a clear definition of 'medical error' and placing doctors, pharmacists and allied health workers under the same liability rules despite their different duties.

The bill, based on an amended Shura Council proposal, covers patients' rights, healthcare providers' duties, disciplinary cases, insurance against civil liability for medical errors, penalties and a Higher Committee for Medical Liability.

One dispute centres on who counts as a service provider.

The draft covers individuals practising medical professions but does not expressly include hospitals, clinics and other legal entities.

The government said this could leave it unclear who is liable when harm stems from poor infrastructure, a lack of equipment, administrative failings, the choice of medical staff or failures in supervision. In such cases, responsibility can rest with the



Second Deputy Speaker Ahmed Qarata addresses MPs during a session of Parliament

institution rather than an individual practitioner.

The Higher Committee has raised a separate constitutional issue.

Its decisions would be final, with no express right for those affected to challenge them in court. The committee would have no judges among its members and, in the government's view, would be an administrative disciplinary body.

Barring court challenges to its rulings could breach the constitutional right to litigation, it argued.

The draft also does not expressly define 'medical error', despite using the term in rules governing civil, criminal and disciplinary liability.

Article 10 lists cases in which a healthcare provider can be held responsible, but the government said that does not fill the gap because what counts as an error can differ between professions.

It also argued against applying the same liability rules across health professions.

Doctors diagnose patients, choose treatment and make medical decisions. Pharmacists

dispense medicines and advise on their use, while allied health workers generally carry out tests, treatment plans and support work under medical supervision.

Those differences should determine how each profession is held liable, the government said.

Bahrain already has separate laws governing doctors and dentists, pharmacists and allied health workers, alongside disciplinary panels for each group under the National Health Regulatory Authority.

The government said the existing system takes account of the duties and powers of each profession and asked for the Shura proposal to be reconsidered.

The Shura Council's explanatory memorandum argues that one law would give patients and health workers clearer rights and duties, bring medical liability rules under one statute and keep them in step with modern medicine.

It also proposes civil liability insurance for medical errors and argues that clearer rules on liability and risk could help investors weighing projects in Bahrain's health sector.

Ozone Protection Enters a New Phase with 2030 Target

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is stepping up efforts to protect the ozone layer while advancing climate action, energy efficiency and sustainable cooling, HH Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Personal Representative of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Environment, said.

Marking World Ozone Day, HH Shaikh Abdullah said Bahrain is pursuing an integrated approach that links ozone protection with climate goals and

the transition to more efficient cooling technologies.

"Bahrain remains committed to protecting the ozone layer and supporting climate action," he said.

This year's World Ozone Day theme, "Global Action for a Cooler Planet," coincides with the 10th anniversary of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

Bahrain has launched the third and final phase of its National Strategy for the Phase-out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), targeting a 100% reduction in HCFC consumption



by 2030.

The Kingdom is also preparing the Bahrain National Cool-

ing Plan for 2026–2028, with implementation extending to 2047. The plan will address environmental protection, climate action, energy efficiency, technology and economic needs.

HH Shaikh Abdullah said the Kingdom will continue strengthening regulations, developing national expertise and promoting safer, more efficient cooling technologies while expanding refrigerant recovery, recycling and reclamation.

He reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to international environmental responsibilities and sustainable development.

Questions Raised Over Works Project Priorities

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Mohammed Darwish

Councillors have demanded answers over how road and infrastructure schemes are picked, funded and moved up the queue, amid questions over why some projects go ahead while others are left waiting.

Northern Municipal Council vice-chair Zaina Jassim called on the Works Ministry to outline the rules it uses to rank schemes across the governorate's 12 constituencies.

She wants to know how much weight is given to need, population, the scale of damage and the number of residents who stand to benefit.

'It is important to strengthen transparency and make clear the procedures followed in choos-

ing and approving projects and allocating the money needed for them,' Jassim said.

The council agreed to write to Works Minister Ebrahim Al Hawaj seeking a full account of how schemes are put forward, ranked, approved and given money.

Jassim said councillors were tasked with tracking residents' needs and putting forward road, service and development schemes, yet needed a clearer picture of what happened to those requests once they reached the ministry.

'The municipal council plays a key role in identifying citizens' needs and putting forward development and service projects that meet the needs of the different constituencies,' she said.

Her questions cover who decides the order of works and how the ministry, the ministerial committee and municipal councils



Zaina Jassim, Northern Municipal Council vice-chair

deal with proposed schemes.

She has also asked for the sums earmarked for Works Ministry projects over the past two financial years and how much was actually spent.

Councillors want to know how cash is split between the 12 constituencies. They have asked whether each area receives a fixed sum or money follows need and the rank given to each scheme.

The inquiry also covers delayed projects, including what

happens when funds run short, how schemes pushed into later years are reassessed and how older council requests are treated when new budgets are drawn up.

Jassim questioned why councils were not routinely given written details of approved schemes, their place in the queue, progress on the ground and the reasons other projects had been rejected or put off.

She also sought the rules used to choose between similar schemes from different constituencies and how urgent works arising after budgets have been agreed are dealt with.

Temporary road paving is also under scrutiny. The council wants the ministry to explain how roads are chosen for such work, why some sites face delays and how spending, need and technical factors affect the order of works.

Terror Convictions Bring Jail Terms

Three defendants were convicted of joining a terrorist group, financing its activities and carrying out hostile and terrorist acts against Bahrain. They were also convicted of violence and vandalism; the High Criminal Court handed down prison terms ranging from six months to three years.

The case followed information received by the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science.



Investigations found that the defendants had different roles within the group, including receiving, transferring and handing over money to support its members, while others participated in acts of violence and vandalism.

FROM THE COURT TDT | Manama Rehab Mohammad

Five Years For Attacks Support

A man has been sentenced to five years in prison and fined BD2,000 after being convicted of supporting and praising Iranian attacks against Bahrain through social media posts. The High Criminal Court also ordered the confiscation of the seized items.

The case was reported by the Cybercrime Directorate after an account containing pictures, videos and comments supporting and praising the attacks was identified. Investigations established the identity of the account operator, while technical experts examined seized electronic devices and confirmed the offences.

The Public Prosecution referred the defendant to the High Criminal Court, which convicted him after several hearings. The prosecution stressed that freedom of expression is protected within the law, but warned that publishing, sharing, supporting or justifying terrorist acts is a criminal offence.

Businessman Gets 15 Years

A businessman in his 50s has been sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined BD30,000 after being convicted in three cases involving false information entered into the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf's electronic system. The offences affected 35 people.

The businessman had entered false contact information while pursuing claims to recover money and debts, causing legal notifications to be sent to numbers controlled by him rather than the people concerned. One of the three incidents involved a second defendant, with the cases affecting 12, 14 and nine people respectively.

The court sentenced both defendants to five years in prison and fined them BD10,000 each in the first case. The businessman received an additional five-year sentence and BD10,000 fine in each of the other two cases, bringing his total to 15 years and BD30,000.

Three Years For Fake Note



A 48-year-old man has been sentenced to three years in prison and fined BD500 after being convicted of possessing a counterfeit Saudi 500-riyal banknote with the intention of passing it off as genuine. The court also ordered the confiscation of the fake note.

The man was already in custody in a drug-use case when officers discovered the counterfeit note while returning his belongings. A forgery expert from the General Directorate of Forensic Evidence confirmed that the banknote was counterfeit.

During questioning, the defendant said he had received the note from an unknown person in exchange for BD30. The High Criminal Court First Circuit convicted him and imposed the three-year prison sentence and BD500 fine.