

88% of public hospital doctors are Bahraini

637 Bahraini and 89 non-Bahraini doctors currently serve in govt hospitals

- Ministry of Health is expanding training, fellowships, and career paths for Bahraini doctors
- Loans, wage support, and incentives for private hospitals aim to strengthen local medical workforce

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is pushing ahead with a phased plan to increase the number of Bahraini doctors in government hospitals, where nationals currently account for 637 of the total 726 doctors.

The Ministry of Health outlined the strategy in a parliamentary

mentary reply to First Deputy Speaker Abdulnabi Salman, emphasizing that Bahraini doctors remain the first choice across the health system. Medical education in the country extends from board training to fellowships and subspecialty programmes, both locally and abroad, ensuring a steady pipeline of qualified national doctors.

Primary health-care centres have already reached 100 per cent Bahrainisation, and new hospital projects are expected to create

additional posts. Government hospitals are expanding specialist training, creating clearer career paths for new graduates, and aligning appointments with the specific needs of each facility.

The phased replacement plan also includes sending Bahraini doctors abroad for fellowship training while carefully balancing shortages in some specialties, available vacancies, job ceilings, and funding requirements. Non-Bahraini doctors are recruited only in areas where qualified Bahraini doctors are not yet available.

In the private sector, the Supreme Council of Health is working with Tamkeen to help Bahraini doctors pass board exams through residency training programmes in needed specialties. The initiative also supports medical and dental fellowships abroad, enabling Bahrainis to complete practical training and qualify for consultant-level

Abdulnabi Salman,
Parliament's
First Deputy
Speaker

roles. Cabinet-backed measures further support education and career development, including loans of up to BD30,000, wage support for newly graduated doctors and dentists, and incentives for private hospitals that prioritise Bahraini hires. Wage support covers 70 per cent of the first-year salary, 50 per cent in the second year, and 30 per cent in the third, with a minimum of BD800. Additional measures aim to boost pay and help doctors acquire advanced clinical skills in demand.



As of the latest health sector data, Bahrain has 10 government hospitals and 24 private hospitals, giving a combined total of 34 hospital facilities across the kingdom.

Government hospitals and health centres record 1.2 million visits in 2025

- Government hospitals alone handled 538,308 visits across outpatient clinics and medical and surgical specialties
- Primary healthcare centres recorded 707,651 visits between January and November 2025

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Government hospitals and primary health-care centres in Bahrain recorded 1.2 million patient visits in 2025, the Ministry of Health told Parliament.



Jaleela Al Sayed, MP

In a written reply to MP Jaleela Al Sayed, the ministry said government hospitals alone handled 538,308 visits across outpatient clinics and medical and surgical specialties. The hospital workforce includes 191 consultants in medicine and dentistry, 323 doctors and specialists, and 211 trainee doctors, including residents and senior residents. Between 2024 and 2025, 207 doctors were promoted under approved procedures, with pay grades from the fifth to tenth level, including E6, based on qualifications, experience, and assigned duties.

Primary healthcare centres recorded 707,651 visits between January and November 2025 and have reached 100% Bahrainisation across all medical posts. Staffing includes 584 doctors, comprising 473 women and 111 men, including consultants,

family doctors, general practitioners, dentists, and trainees. Promotions for eligible doctors are underway, with some completed in November 2025 and the remainder expected in early 2026.

On clinic capacity, the Bahrain and Kuwait Health Centre in Hidd has the most general medicine clinics (31), followed by Yousif Abdulrahman Engineer Health Centre (26). Other clinics are spread across 27 health centres and a coastal clinic.

The ministry said estimates of doctor requirements are linked to the Health Insurance Law rollout and are reviewed regularly, taking into account specialty, service demand, staffing ceilings, and budgets. Future staffing needs are met through approved fellowship and subspecialty programmes, allowing doctors to train and progress according to professional requirements, with timelines varying by specialty.

Pakistan, Bahrain pledge closer cooperation on security and drug enforcement



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Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, held talks yesterday with General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Interior Minister, on strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing cooperation in security and drug enforcement.

The two sides agreed to continue coordinated efforts to combat the threats posed by organised crime and drug trafficking, building on the long-standing partnership between the two nations.

President Zardari praised HM the King's wise leadership and his role in deepening the close relations between Pakistan and Bahrain.

In response, the Interior Minister welcomed the positive outcomes of President Zardari's visit, noting that the meeting between HM the King and the Pakistani President highlighted the historical ties and close cooperation between the countries. He also expressed gratitude to President Zardari for his commitment to enhancing collaboration and joint action in key areas.

Parliament to debate specialist sports coaches for public schools

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A proposal to appoint a specialist sports coach in every public school will be debated and voted on in Parliament Tuesday, after unanimous backing from the Services Committee.

Submitted by MPs Dr Mahdi Al Shuwaikh, Abdulnabi Salman, Mamdouh Al Saleh, Hassan Ebrahim, and Dr Hisham Al Ashiri, the plan aims to identify and develop pupils with sporting talent.

Dr Al Shuwaikh said: "Specialist coaches will nurture athletically gifted students and refine their skills."

The Services Committee recommended approval, citing public-interest grounds.

The Ministry of Education

said it supports nurturing student talent but argued that existing PE teachers and school competitions already achieve this. PE curricula cover team and individual sports, and teachers have the expertise to spot and develop promising athletes.

The ministry highlighted Bahrain's 2024 International School Games, where students won 66 medals, ranking fourth among Arab nations and 13th globally, and success at the Gymnasiade international school championship.

It added that school sports will continue to expand, encouraging participation and supporting talented students, and said it remains ready to provide further clarification to Parliament.



Dr Mahdi Al
Shuwaikh, MP

Café worker jailed for three years for throwing hot water at colleague

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The High Criminal Court sentenced a café worker to three years in prison for throwing hot water at a colleague, leaving her with a 5% permanent disability.

Court records show the man, in his 20s, argued with his Asian

co-worker over handling an order, which escalated into a physical altercation. He hit the woman, knocking her to the floor, before other delivery workers intervened.

Prosecutors said the defendant then stood behind the woman, called her by name, and threw hot water at her from a drink-preparation container,

causing burns confirmed in a forensic report.

The victim told the court she had asked for his help that morning, which he ignored. After opening her account on the cash register and closing his, he attacked her, hitting her and throwing her down. Even after co-workers intervened and she contacted the manager, he fol-

lowed her and poured hot water over her face, striking her again on the head.

During the investigation, the defendant admitted to the assault. He was charged with deliberately causing permanent disability, assault by beating and choking, and continuing the attack after the first confrontation was broken up.