

# MP Pushes Genetic Ethics

## Calls for screening beyond HPLC

- IVF-based testing urged
- Genetic ethics spotlighted
- HPLC accuracy questioned

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A renewed push to reshape Bahrain's approach to hereditary disease prevention is gaining traction, with MP Dr. Mariam Al Dhaen calling for greater emphasis on genetic ethics, advanced screening, and informed reproductive decision-making in sickle cell care.

In her latest remarks, Dr. Al Dhaen urged the government to encourage couples at risk of passing on sickle cell anaemia or beta-thalassemia to undergo preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) as part of assisted reproductive treatments. The procedure, she said, offers a precise method to prevent the transmission of these conditions by selecting healthy embryos before pregnancy.

### Diagnostic shift

Dr. Al Dhaen also raised concerns about the limitations of current premarital screening tools, particularly the High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) test, which she said can sometimes yield inaccurate results. "There have been cases where individuals were told they carried a genetic mutation, but genetic testing proved they did not," she said, emphasising the need for more accurate diagnostic options.

In addition to PGT, Dr. Al Dhaen advocated for using embryo genetic testing and HLA typing to help families with affected children. She explained that selecting a healthy embryo whose tissue matches that of an existing child could pave the way for stem cell or bone marrow treatments using a compatible sibling donor.

### Emergency reform

While praising the 24-hour operation of the Genetic Blood



MP Dr. Mariam Al Dhaen



**Preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) helps couples avoid passing on inherited diseases by selecting healthy embryos during IVF procedures.**

Diseases Center at Salmaniya Medical Complex - a move she described as a "qualitative leap" for the healthcare system - Dr. Al Dhaen positioned her new proposals as the next phase in national efforts to support patients with genetic blood disorders.

She reaffirmed her earlier proposal for dedicated emergency care pathways and specialist consultants for sickle cell patients, noting that swift and focused intervention is crucial given the severity and sudden onset of symptoms.

### Policy vision

Dr. Al Dhaen stressed that genetic health is not only a medical challenge but also a policy responsibility requiring coordinated action among health authorities, lawmakers, and families. She framed her proposals as a call to action to keep Bahrain at the forefront of compassionate and science-driven healthcare.

The MP concluded by reiterating that citizens' health remains a top national priority, and that thoughtful, ethical approaches to genetics must play a central role in shaping the Kingdom's healthcare future.

# Court clears man of boat theft and forgery

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A man in his thirties has been cleared of forging a document and stealing a boat from a friend, after the High Criminal Court ruled there was too much doubt surrounding the charges.

The forged ownership form was confiscated, and the civil claim dismissed.

His lawyer, Basema Al Haddar, argued he had taken possession of the boat with the knowledge and consent of the victim's brother, who owed him money. She said the accused was giv-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

en a signed ownership transfer form and the brother's smart ID card, and was told the arrangement had the victim's approval. The court accepted that account, noting he was able to complete the ownership transfer through the official process on that basis.

# Parliament Hails US Deals

MP Basema links reforms to record deals

● Parliament pledges follow-up

● Legal climate draws investors

● Bahrain seen as regional base

Mohammed Darwish  
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The recent \$17 billion Bahrain-US private sector investment wave, announced during HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's visit to Washington, is being hailed by national lawmakers as a milestone in Bahrain's global positioning.

Member of Parliament Basema Mubarak described the outcome as a "turning point" in bilateral ties and said it reflects



MP Basema Mubarak

Bahrain's credibility as a base for regional and international business.

### Legal reforms

She credited the surge in investor confidence to Bahrain's updated commercial regulations and improved legal framework,

which she said had boosted the country's appeal to long-term investors.

"These agreements are the result of steady, deliberate reforms that make Bahrain a transparent and reliable destination for global partnerships," Basema said.

Bahrain was the first GCC country to sign a Free Trade Agreement with the United States, back in 2004.

### Focus on follow-up

Basema, a member of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, noted that Parliament will support efforts to translate these deals into tangible public gains.

"Legislative support is essential to ensure these projects deliver on their promise to create jobs, build skills, and strengthen our economy," she said.

Her comments reflect growing political will to align national policy with the broader economic goals outlined through the latest high-level international partnerships.

# Crackdown on irregular employment



Checking expat workers' legal status

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The Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA), in coordination with relevant departments and the Labor Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), conducted extensive inspection campaigns during the first half of 2025.

It was part of ongoing efforts to combat irregular employment and uphold Bahrain's residency and labour regulations.

According to official figures, inspections were carried out on 98,428 individuals, resulting in the deportation of 6,988 violators who failed to comply with residency and labour laws.

Legal action was taken against all offenders in accordance with the Kingdom's regulations.

The NPRA reaffirmed its commitment to intensifying these joint campaigns in cooperation with partner authorities to enhance community security, uphold the rule of law, and promote labour market stability.

# Interior Minister opens new Zallaq Police Station

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His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa inaugurated yesterday the new Zallaq Police Station.

He was received by the Deputy Interior Minister, the Chief of Public Security, His Highness the Southern Governor and the Interior Ministry Undersecretary.

Upon his arrival, HE the Interior Minister unveiled a commemorative plaque, marking the opening of the centre.

He hailed the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to the



H.E. Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah meets with officers at the new Zallaq Police Station

development and modernisation system of the Interior Ministry and the launch of initiatives and programmes to provide modern security services.

Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah

also hailed the role of the police directorates in the governorates in providing advanced security services, promoting community partnership and interacting with all segments of society.

# Driver jailed over fatal Saar crash and drug offences

Mohammed Darwish  
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A Bahraini man was sentenced to nine years in prison yesterday after a crash in Saar killed a couple and their son, left two other children gravely injured, and led police to find a stash of hashish in his home.

The 29-year-old was handed six years for causing the crash while intoxicated, and a separate three-year sentence for drug possession, along with a BD3,000 fine.

His driving licence was suspended for a year after serving



Family's joy shattered in tragic crash that claimed three lives

his sentence, and the car involved in the collision was confiscated.

The fatal crash took place

on 30 May, when the man, under the influence of drugs and alcohol, sped through Saar, veered into the opposite lane, and ploughed into the family's vehicle.

The parents died at the scene. One of their children died shortly after in hospital.

The two surviving children suffered serious injuries.

Prosecutors brought eight charges in the traffic case alone, including causing death and injury while intoxicated, driving in a condition unfit for control, reckless overtaking, and speeding by 30 per cent over the limit.