

Pay For Losses

Manama reiterates UN demand for redress over damages

TDT | Manama
Ashen Tharaka

The Kingdom of Bahrain reiterated its demand for the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide full compensation for damages and losses caused by "Iranian aggression," according to its eleventh national communication to the United Nations.

In a formal letter submitted by Bahrain's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York to the UN Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council, Manama said it continues to update Council members on what it called "unlawful and blatant attacks" on its territory.

Fatal Incident

The document also referenced an incident on March 24, 2026, in which a civilian contractor of Moroccan nationality, working with the UAE Armed Forces, was killed during a mission in Bahrain following a missile strike.

On the same day, several members of Bahrain's Defence Force and personnel from the



UAE Armed Forces were injured while responding to the attacks.

Cyber Threat Escalates

Meanwhile, Bahrain warned that recent targeted attacks on its technological infrastructure represent a serious threat to national security, following remarks by Eng. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Sisi Al Buainain, the Secretary General of the Council of

Representatives, in Istanbul.

Speaking at the Association of Secretaries General of National Parliaments during the 152nd General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Al Buainain said the attacks—linked to Iranian hostile activity—systematically targeted Bahrain's digital and technological systems, disrupting electronic services and threatening civilian infrastructure.

He stressed that such incidents go beyond technical disruption and constitute a direct violation of state sovereignty and international principles protecting civilian and critical infrastructure. He warned that the increasing sophistication of such attacks requires treating technological infrastructure as a core element of national security.



"These cyberattacks cannot be treated as technical incidents; they are direct threats to sovereignty."

ENG. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL SISI AL BUAINAIN

Al Buainain called for stronger cyber defense systems and stricter international frameworks to address growing digital threats, noting that artificial intelligence and smart systems must be secured as part of sovereign infrastructure.

Expat Hiring Gets Costlier

Measures Reinforce Bahrainisation Targets in Private Sector

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Hasan Barakat

Bahrain has increased fees on foreign labour starting in 2026 as part of efforts to narrow the cost gap between Bahraini and expatriate workers and encourage greater national participation in the private sector, the Labour Ministry said.

In a written reply to MP Hamad Al Doy, the ministry said the fee adjustment accompanies broader labour market policies including Bahrainisation requirements, wage support schemes, training programmes, and stricter enforcement against violations such as employing workers without valid permits.

The ministry said the reforms are designed to strengthen compliance, increase opportunities for Bahraini jobseekers, and improve monitoring of private-sector hiring practices.

Bahrainisation rules continue to apply across sectors at varying levels, requiring firms to meet national employment targets. Companies that fail to comply face monthly penalties per expatriate worker permit, while those achieving higher localisation rates benefit from preferential access to government tenders.

The ministry also stressed its ongoing role in labour inspections, compliance monitoring, and protecting Bahraini workers from unfair dismissal practices, especially concerning wage support schemes.



Hamad Al Doy, MP



Jobseekers (2025)

- Total registered: 15,433
- Majority age group: 25-29 years (5,612)
- Degree holders: 10,607

Private Sector (2025)

- First-time hires: 9,149
- Re-joined after long break: 7,166
- Private sector workforce: 105,000+

Support Measures

- Wage subsidy: up to 70% in first year
- Salary caps: BD800 (graduates), BD600 (diploma), BD450 (secondary)
- Entrepreneurship support through the "Sijili" program.

Learning Rollout Runs Smoothly

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Neethu V

Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education praised the smooth rollout of Bahrain's blended learning system as students returned to government schools under a flexible model combining classroom and remote education.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Juma said remote learning had continued without disruption since the start of the academic phase. The ministry is actively monitoring digital platforms across schools to ensure full readiness and stability.

He confirmed that students whose parents opted for in-person learning returned to classrooms yesterday following preparatory field visits to ensure schools were fully prepared for both modes of instruction.

The dual system offers families important flexibility, allowing them to choose between physical attendance and remote learning



The Education Minister joined a field inspection with ministry officials to ensure consistency across schools consistency across schools.



based on their needs and circumstances. "If only one option had been offered, many families would have faced difficulties," he said, adding that the blended approach had already proven effective in previous phases.

Behind the scenes, schools spent weeks preparing for the rollout. Classrooms were reor-

ganised, student groups finalised, and teaching staff deployed on campus to ensure both systems could operate simultaneously without disruption.

Schools track daily attendance, coordinating closely with parents to monitor engagement whether students are in class or learning remotely.



"If only one option had been offered, many families would have faced difficulties."

DR. MOHAMMED BIN MUBARAK JUMA, MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Verdict Due on Two Expat Death Cases

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Rehab Mohammad

The High Criminal Court has set April 28 as the date to deliver its ruling in a case linked to a deadly early-morning traffic incident on Al Zallaq Road that resulted in the deaths of two Asian nationals and injuries to two others.

The case centers on a road collision involving cyclists, where the Public Prosecution has brought multiple charges against the defendant. These charges include causing death and injury through negligent driving, possession of a psychotropic substance for personal use, failing to render assistance, fleeing the scene of the accident, not reporting the incident to authorities, damaging property, and driving without due care and attention.

According to case records, the incident took place on March 21, 2026, at approximately 5:55 a.m., when the defendant allegedly lost focus while driving and struck four cyclists.

External Influence Stalls Indian School Growth



UPP representatives during the press briefing

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Pradeep Puravankara

The United Parents Panel (UPP), representing parents of students at the Indian School Bahrain, has alleged that external interference and administrative inefficiencies are negatively impacting the institution's functioning.

At a recent press conference, UPP officials criticized the school's Executive

Committee for what they described as a lack of transparency and failure to address key concerns raised by parents. Among the issues highlighted was the absence of a clear response to repeated requests for a waiver of March transport fees amid prevailing regional conditions.

The panel also objected to students being barred from online classes over unpaid dues as low as BD 20, stating that this contradicts deci-

sions taken at the Annual General Body meeting.

Raising financial concerns, the UPP questioned continued references to "financial constraints" while seeking clarity on the future of the Infrastructure Fee, especially with the Riffa Campus loan expected to be cleared by March 2026. It also pointed to a decline in Mega Fair collections under the current administration.

The UPP further alleged that non-parents and former

committee members are involved in school operations, including handling sensitive IT systems, raising privacy concerns. It also criticized the reported termination of experienced staff, warning of potential impacts on academic standards.

Additionally, the panel disputed claims about reopening the JEE examination centre, emphasizing that it was a collective effort involving multiple stakeholders, including the Indian Embassy.