

Post-Impact Reconstruction Efforts

Minister stresses coordinated government response to housing damage and compensation

● Temporary housing provided for affected families in Salman City

● Some families already returned after repairs

● Response coordinated under national leadership

● Bahrain stressed violations of international law and SDG 11



session titled “Middle East Impacts and Their Global Effects on Housing and Urban Planning” at the World Urban Forum 13 (WUF13), held in Baku and organised by UN-Habitat in partnership with the Government of Azerbaijan, the minister outlined Bahrain’s recovery and reconstruction measures.

She said Bahrain provided a “rapid and integrated model” for addressing residential and infrastructure damage, referring to what she described as

Iranian attacks affecting civilian areas. She added that the government was acting under directives to ensure full repair and compensation for affected households.

The minister said the response was implemented under the guidance of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the follow-up of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, with state authorities tasked with covering the cost of damage to citizens’ homes.

She described attacks targeting residential areas as a violation of international law and a challenge to global efforts under Sustainable Development Goal 11, which seeks to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The minister also detailed coordination between the Hous-

ing and Urban Planning Ministry and other government bodies to assess damage, carry out engineering repairs and process compensation, including for vehicles and private property.

She said the response process included rapid damage assessment by specialised teams, followed by repair works tailored to each case, and phased hand-over of restored homes. Some families, she added, had already returned to their homes under the first phase of the recovery plan.

Temporary housing units were also provided in Salman City for families whose homes were severely damaged, she said, until full repairs were completed.

Rumaihi also highlighted national volunteer efforts and private sector contributions, including a nationwide campaign supporting recovery work, saying these reflected strong social solidarity in Bahrain’s reconstruction response.

She said national resilience was measured not only by development planning, but by the ability to protect citizens and respond effectively to regional challenges.

Manama Urges Ukraine Peace Push

Praises UAE, Saudi, Qatar humanitarian mediation efforts

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Ashen Tharaka



The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomed the announcement of a temporary ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine brokered with US mediation, urging momentum toward broader diplomatic understandings that could help end the war and reinforce security in Europe.

Speaking at a session of the United Nations Security Council on the situation in Ukraine, Bahrain’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Jamal Fares Al Rowaiee, said such steps should be built upon to achieve a comprehensive political settlement.

He stressed that the temporary truce should translate into “tangible results on the ground,” adding that sustained dialogue remains essential to achieving a just and lasting peace in line with international law and the UN Charter.

Bahrain praised ongoing humanitarian mediation efforts, particularly prisoner exchanges, describing them as constructive contributions to de-escalation. It highlighted recent efforts by the United Arab Emirates, which facilitated a new exchange involving 410 prisoners, bringing the total number of released detainees to 7,101 across 23 mediation operations.

The kingdom also commended the mediation roles of Saudi Arabia in securing the release of detainees and facilitating exchanges between the two sides, as well as Qatar’s efforts in reuniting Ukrainian and Russian children with their families, calling these in-

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Ukraine Humanitarian Mediation

- Bahrain praised prisoner exchange efforts as key to de-escalation
- UAE facilitated latest swap of 410 prisoners
- Total released: 7,101 prisoners across 23 exchanges
- Efforts described as supporting wider diplomatic and humanitarian initiatives

itiatives “positive and humanitarian” in nature.

Bahrain further warned of the growing use of drones in modern warfare, noting that their expansion beyond conflict zones risks wider regional spillover and could escalate tensions, threatening stability across Europe.

Reaffirming its position, Bahrain backed calls by UN Secretary-General António Guterres for an immediate, full, unconditional and lasting ceasefire as a first step toward a comprehensive peace agreement.

Is Matcha Really a Super Drink? Science Weighs In

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Ghadeer Alkumaish



Abdullah Saud, Pharmacist

Matcha, the finely ground green tea powder widely promoted as a “super drink,” has surged in global popularity for its supposed benefits including improved energy, focus and weight management. But experts say its health effects are often overstated.

Pharmacist Abdullah Saud says matcha does offer genuine nutritional value, but should not be viewed as a miracle beverage.

“Matcha contains powerful antioxidants such as EGCG, which may help reduce inflammation and support heart and brain health, but its benefits depend on moderation and overall lifestyle, not because it is a magic drink,” he said in an interview.

The growing demand for matcha reflects a broader wellness trend in which natural products are frequently marketed as quick fixes for health and fitness goals.

Saud cautioned that many popular claims are not sup-

ported by science. “There is marketing exaggeration around the idea that matcha burns fat or detoxifies the body, while in reality it may only slightly support metabolism,” he said.

Compared with coffee, matcha provides a different kind of energy boost due to its combination of caffeine and L-theanine, an amino acid linked to relaxation and focus.

He advised spacing consumption for those at risk of iron deficiency. “It is best to leave a gap of about two hours between drinking matcha and consuming iron-rich foods or supplements, especially for those with iron deficiency,” he added.

Bahraini Pilgrims Depart for Hajj

Government agencies work together to ensure safe and organised Hajj travel for citizens



First groups of pilgrims have departed for Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, as officials coordinated travel procedures to ensure a smooth and organised journey, authorities said.

Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, who also chairs the Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs, saw off departing pilgrims at Bahrain International Airport.

He was joined by Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Naif bin Bandar Al Sudairi, Undersecretary for Justice and Islamic Affairs Judge Isa Sami Al Mannai, along with other officials.

Al Maawda said coordination between Bahraini government entities reflects the kingdom’s commitment to ensuring the

comfort, safety and smooth travel of pilgrims from departure until their return.

He added that efforts are focused on simplifying procedures and providing a seamless experience for Bahraini pilgrims throughout the Hajj journey.

The minister also highlighted the role of the Saudi Embassy in Bahrain in supporting coordination and facilitating travel arrangements.

He praised Saudi Arabia’s early preparations for the Hajj season, saying they have contributed to improved services and an organised environment for pilgrims from around the world.

Al Maawda further commended the efforts of Bahrain’s Ministry of Interior, Bahrain Airport Company and the King Fahd Causeway Authority in ensuring efficient travel procedures.

From The Court

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Rehab Mohammad

Five Years for Filming Sensitive Sites

The court sentenced a defendant to five years in prison after convicting him of filming vital facilities during what authorities described as hostile attacks against the kingdom, the Public Prosecution said on Thursday.

The Head of the Terror Crimes Prosecution said the Lower Criminal Court issued the ruling following hearings in a case involving the unlawful recording of restricted sites. The court also ordered the confiscation of seized materials.

According to prosecutors, security authorities at the Ministry of Interior reported that the defendant filmed facilities whose photography is prohibited by law during a period of heightened security tensions. He was subsequently arrested and referred to the Public

Prosecution.

Investigators questioned the suspect, ordered his pre-trial detention, and examined electronic devices with technical experts. Forensic reports were also obtained before the case was referred to court.

The Public Prosecution said the evidence established the defendant’s actions, leading to his conviction after several hearings.

It stressed that vital installations and strategic sites are protected under law, warning that filming or sharing such content during sensitive security conditions could threaten national security and public safety.

Authorities added that legal action will continue against anyone found to have filmed or circulated information related to restricted facilities.

Infant Death Case Ends in Jail Terms and Deportation

The court sentenced three people, including the parents of a newborn, to prison terms followed by deportation after convicting them in a case involving child neglect, death, and the illegal burial of the infant without notifying authorities.

The First High Criminal Court sentenced a 26-year-old father and a 35-year-old mother to three years in prison each after finding them guilty of neglecting their newborn child and failing to provide medical care, which resulted in the baby’s death. The court also ruled that both failed to report the birth and death within the legally required timeframe.

A third defendant, a 39-year-old woman, received a six-month prison sentence for burying the child without informing the relevant authorities.

All three defendants were additionally given one-month jail terms for violating residency laws, and the court ordered their deportation upon completion of their sentences.

According to case details, the father and mother had developed a relationship after meeting on social media in 2022, before living together in Bahrain in late 2024. The mother later became pregnant but did not seek medical care due to her expired residency status, and the couple agreed to continue the pregnancy without supervision.

In August 2025, the mother gave birth prematurely in the apartment while alone, with the newborn later found to be alive at birth. The baby’s condition deteriorated shortly after, and he later died despite attempts by the parents to revive him.