

## Public hospitals running as normal

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's public hospitals and health centres are operating as normal, with no medical services hit by the Iranian aggression and its aftermath.

Dr Mohammed Al Awadhi, Director of Public Health at the Ministry of Health, said tests, consultations and vaccinations are all still available, and said the Kingdom's health system is fully ready for any emergency.

He said the emergency plan allows support from military and private hospitals when needed, through a joined-up system in which the committees in charge remain in close touch.

### Outcomes

The plan was drawn up before the recent events, he said, and covers a range of scenarios and likely outcomes.

Since the start of the events, health bodies have been working to reassure citizens and residents and to keep services running without a break in hospitals and health centres alike.

Dr Al Awadhi said work to strengthen the health service is being carried out under the guidance of His Majesty King



“The Kingdom's health system is fully ready for any emergency.”

— DR MOHAMMED AL AWADHI,  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT THE  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

### Effort

He said this work falls under the Supreme Council of Health, led by Lieutenant-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, with follow-up from Health Minister Jaleela Al Sayed, in what he described as a one-team effort across the health sector.

## Civil servant jailed for taking bribe



● Five years in prison and fined BD2,800

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

A civil servant has been jailed for five years and fined BD2,800 after the First High Criminal Court found him guilty of taking a bribe.

The court also ordered his removal from his post and barred him from holding public office or performing public work.

In the same case, an Arab businessman was sentenced to one year in prison and fined BD2,800, with deportation to follow once he has served his sentence.

The court also ordered the bribe money to be seized.

The case dates back to 2023.

### Task

Prosecutors said the first defendant, as a public employee, asked for and accepted money for himself in return for doing a task he claimed fell within his job.

He told the second defendant he could speed up some of his transactions for BD2,800.

During questioning, the first defendant admitted that he had continued dealing with the businessman after his duties had ended, and had tried to speed up his transactions and pay the related fees.

The businessman was also charged with taking part in the offence through agreement and assistance.

### Transactions

Prosecutors said he agreed to pay the money as a bribe in return for faster handling of his transactions, and that the offence took place on that basis.

# Buried drugs

Man jailed, fined BD5,000 and set for deportation over drug trafficking scheme

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

A man has been sentenced to five years in prison, fined BD5,000 and ordered deported after being convicted of drug trafficking using a “dead drop” method.

The case began when police received a tip-off from a confidential source reporting that an Asian man had been seen hiding an item beneath a pile of stones in what was suspected to be a drug drop location.

The source also provided video footage showing the suspect placing a small bag at the site.

### Location

Police units were dispatched to the location, where officers recovered a transparent bag containing a substance later identified as drugs.

Shortly after, the suspect returned to the area, noticed police presence and attempted to flee but was apprehended following a brief pursuit.

A search revealed 35 small packets of suspected drugs in his possession.

### Residence

Authorities later searched the suspect's residence, where additional quantities of heroin and methamphetamine were found, along with a weighing scale and packaging materials.

Investigators said the items indicated involvement in drug distribution.

During questioning, the suspect admitted to using the



Image used for illustrative purposes only



A confidential source reported that an Asian man had been seen hiding an item beneath a pile of stones in what was suspected to be a drug drop location.

“dead drop” method to supply narcotics in exchange for money.

Examination of his mobile phone uncovered messages, images and location markers linked to the activity.

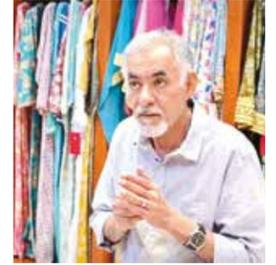
### Arrest

In court, the defence argued that the arrest and search procedures were invalid.

However, prosecutors presented video evidence, seized narcotics, laboratory results and the suspect's confession.

The court found the man guilty and handed down a five-year prison sentence, a BD5,000 fine and deportation upon completion of his term.

## Veteran Manama zari trader passes away



Mohammed Saleh Al Zari  
Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Mohammed Saleh Al Zari, one of Bahrain's best-known sellers and tailors of 'zari' robes, died yesterday after a working life of more than 75 years in one of the kingdom's oldest dress trades.

His death leaves Manama Souq without one of its most familiar old hands.

For decades, his name was bound to the making and sale of Bahraini and Gulf dress through a long-running family shop passed down from his father, Haji Saleh Al Zari, who first worked in Souq Al Safarin before moving to Bab Al Bahrain Avenue.

Mohammed Saleh Al Zari worked from Bab Al Bahrain Street from 1979 until 2004, when he moved to his shop in Yateem Centre, where he remained a well-known face among shoppers looking for old-style clothing and embroidery.

The family trade goes back to 1950, and Al Zari's name stayed close to the look and making of traditional Bahraini and Gulf wear through those years.

He helped keep the art of zari in view in both the souq and the wider public.

# Home at last: Filipino workers return safely from Bahrain

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For 42-year-old nurse and mother, Nanette Pahit Pandan from Surigao City, returning home from Bahrain was more than just a journey; it was a step toward safety, renewed hope, and peace of mind.

She was one of 89 Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who were repatriated from Bahrain, part of a larger contingent that included 317 workers and 26 dependents.

The repatriates came from across the Gulf region, including Saudi Arabia (Riyadh and Al Khobar), Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar, and were gathered in Riyadh, which served as the main jump-off point for their journey back to the Philippines.

At dawn on March 23, a chartered flight carrying 343 OFWs and their families landed at Villamor Air Base, marking a crucial step in the Philippine government's ongoing efforts to bring its citizens home from the Gulf region amid rising tensions.

“I slept well for the first time in three weeks,” she shared, her voice carrying both relief and exhaustion. “For several days, I



Filipino repatriates from across the Gulf region await departure

hardly managed to rest, preoccupied with the sounds outside, uncertain if I would wake up safely each morning.”

The weight of uncertainty and fear had kept her on edge, and only now, with the journey home secured, could she truly feel a wave of tranquility and gratitude wash over her.

Upon arrival in the Philippines from the fourth chartered flight, the repatriates were immediately welcomed by various government agencies that provided essential assistance, including food, temporary accommodation, transportation support, psychosocial services,

“For several days, I hardly managed to rest, preoccupied with the sounds outside, uncertain if I would wake up safely each morning.”

— NANETTE PAHIT PANDAN

and reintegration programs.

Recently, 38 OFWs from Bahrain were repatriated as part of the previous batch.

The homecoming represents the Philippine government's ongoing efforts to assist and safely bring home Filipinos affected by the current situation in the region.

Pandan shared that she and her fellow OFWs stayed at a hotel in Riyadh for two nights after arriving around 11:30 p.m. on March 20.

By the evening of March 22, at approximately 10:00 p.m., they left the hotel and headed to Riyadh Airport to prepare for their flight back to the Philippines.

She left behind her beloved furbaby, Ceasar, in her residence in Gudaibiya.