

# Safe return for all Bahraini nationals

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This effort is in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to ensure the safe return of all Bahraini nationals.

Ambassador Bahzad commended the continuous follow-up by Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the collaborative efforts of various ministries and government entities involved in the evacuation process. He also expressed gratitude for the supportive roles played by Saudi Arabia and the UAE in ensuring the success of the evacuation operation.

Reports have said the one-week truce was violated only minutes after it came into effect on Monday night, with residents of the capital Khartoum reporting air strikes and artillery fire shaking the city.

There have since been further breaches of the ceasefire agreement, which is meant to allow for much-needed humanitarian aid to reach war-ravaged parts of the north African country.

It is the latest in a series of truces that have all been systematically violated.

In a statement issued late Wednesday, the RSF, which is led by Mohammed Hamdan Daglo, sought to place the blame for ceasefire breaches on the army led by Sudan's de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

The army "launched a series of unwarranted attacks today",



In pictures, officials and medical team assisting Bahraini citizens and residents following their arrival from Sudan at Bahrain International Airport, yesterday



the RSF said, adding that "our forces decisively repelled these assaults".

"Our forces successfully shot down a SAF MiG jet fighter," it said, reiterating however that it remained "committed to the humanitarian truce" and called on the "aggressors to respect the ceasefire".

The United States and Saudi Arabia, which brokered the

ceasefire, on Wednesday pointed to reports "indicating that both sides violated the agreement" but said "fighting in Khartoum appeared to be less intense".

Conditions have been particularly alarming in the western region of Darfur, already ravaged by a conflict that erupted in 2003 and saw then president Omar al-Bashir unleash the feared Janjaweed militia to crush a re-

bellion among ethnic minority groups.

The RSF traces its origins to the Janjaweed.

The UN's refugee coordinator in Sudan, Toby Harward, said the town of Zalengei in Central Darfur state "has been under siege by armed militias for the last days".

Numerous facilities "have been attacked and looted, civil-

ians are unable to seek medical care as healthcare facilities are targeted, and gangs on motorcycles intimidate government workers and restrict civilian movements", he added.

Representatives of the warring Sudanese generals have since early May been involved in negotiations in the Saudi city of Jeddah on the Red Sea.

But analysts have repeatedly

warned that the two generals are likely prepared for a prolonged conflict.

Sudan expert Alex de Waal described the conflict as being the result of a "calamitous failure of diplomacy".

Burhan and Daglo had in 2021 staged a coup that unseated a civilian transitional government but later fell out in a bitter power struggle.

## Accident triggers traffic congestion on Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman street

TDT | Manama

An accident that occurred yesterday on Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Street near the Wadi Al-Sail area resulted in heavy traffic congestion towards Manama.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing a line of vehicles stretching along the road as authorities swiftly responded to the incident, transporting the injured to nearby hospitals for urgent medical attention.

Later, in a tweet, the Interior Ministry confirmed the presence of competent authorities at the accident site, actively working to address the situ-



ation. The ministry said they deployed emergency response teams and law enforcement

agencies to clear the accident site and restore normal traffic conditions as efficiently as possible.



The Community Service Police Division of the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate joined forces with the General Directorate of Civil Defence to promote community partnership. They executed an awareness campaign aimed at farm owners and workers. It focused on providing valuable advice and guidelines for dealing with fires, emphasising the importance of following correct procedures, possessing necessary safety equipment, and adopting proper methods for disposing of agricultural waste. Additionally, the campaign distributed multilingual posters outlining security and safety protocols to be adhered to in case of accidents, as well as providing guidance on the appropriate usage of fire extinguishers.

## Proposal made to raise government employees' living allowances by 20%



Members of the legislative and executive authorities during a meeting on the state general budget

TDT | Manama

A proposal was put forward yesterday to raise the living allowances of government employees by 20% during a discussion on the State's general budget. An Al Ayam report said quoting unnamed sources.

The report further said the proposals also included a recommendation to increase the allowance for retirees by approximately BD30 for those with salaries below BD1,500.

In response, members of parliament (MPs) demanded a 100% increase in the living

allowance for the government sector and a BD40 raise for retirees.

These proposals were presented during a meeting of the legislative and executive authorities to discuss a draft law to approve the state's general budget for the fiscal years 2023-2024. The meeting was chaired by Speaker of the Council of Representatives Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh and Minister of Finance and National Economy Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

It was attended by ministers, members of Financial and Eco-

nomics Affairs Committees in the Shura and Representatives Councils and officials.

Al Ayam report said the proposals were for enhancing the living conditions and improve the purchasing power of citizens and retirees.

Representatives of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee of the Shura Council emphasised the importance of maintaining a balanced state budget and avoiding excessive expenditures. They stressed the need to continue implementing the financial balance programme to achieve the desired economic stability.