

Foreign Students Near 30pc in Private Universities

GCC and non-GCC enrolment growth pushes international presence higher

TDT | Manama
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Foreign students now account for almost three in 10 learners at Bahrain's private universities and colleges after their numbers jumped by 41.7 pc in a year, new data says.

Non-Bahraini enrolment rose from 3,432 in 2023/2024 to 4,864 in 2024/2025, adding 1,432 students. That made up above three quarters of the yearly rise in the private higher education student body.

Total enrolment stood at 16,283 in 2024/2025, the highest figure in the available run of data, up from 13,872 in 2018/2019. The rise over the period was 2,411 students, or about 17.4 pc.

The sharper change came from abroad. Non-Bahraini enrolment has grown from 1,976 in 2018/2019 to 4,864 in 2024/2025, a rise of about 146 pc. Its share of all students climbed from 14.2 pc to 29.9 pc.

The rise has come from both Gulf and non-Gulf students. Non-Bahraini GCC students rose from 514 to 2,214 between



2018/2019 and 2024/2025, while non-GCC students grew from 1,462 to 2,650.

Bahrainis remain the largest group, with 11,419 students in 2024/2025, equal to about 70.1 pc of the total.

The number of private higher education institutions rose from 13 in 2018/2019 to 15 in 2024/2025. Private universities increased from nine to 12 over the same span.

Private institutions now make up 83.3 pc of Bahrain's higher

education institutions, compared with 76.5 pc in 2018/2019.

The pull from overseas has also deepened at each institution. The average number of non-Bahraini students per private institution rose from about 152 in 2018/2019 to about 324 in 2024/2025.

The figures point to a private higher education sector still rooted in local demand, but with foreign enrolment now doing much of the work behind its latest growth.



Six-year growth

- Total private higher education students:
- 2018/2019: 13,872
- 2024/2025: 16,283
- Growth: +2,411 students (17.4pc)

International student rise

- Non-Bahraini students:
- 2018/2019: 1,976
- 2024/2025: 4,864
- Growth: +146pc
- Student mix

Bahraini students:

- 11,419 (70.1pc)
- Non-Bahraini students: 4,864 (29.9pc)

Bahrain Food Bank saves 300kg of Ashura food daily



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Bahrain Food Bank saved between 200kg and 300kg of surplus food each day during Ashura after some maatams, hussainiyas and homes cooked far beyond what they could store or hand out.

Waleed Ali, head of operations at Bahrain Food Bank, said the cases showed a need for better planning before large meals are made, along with clearer ways to pass on leftover food.

The charity dealt with many calls from maatams, hussainiyas and homes during the season. Food still fit to eat was collected, kept safe and shared with those in need under health rules.

Ali said the rescued food reached eligible groups, including members of foreign communities, through organised handouts.

Bahrain Food Bank urged groups and households not to cook beyond real need. It also warned people not to collect

Discarding food in public harms the environment, poses health risks, and goes against both religious and humanitarian values.

large amounts of food and then dump them in streets or public places.

The charity said throwing food away in public harmed the environment, brought health risks and went against religious and human values.

It added that dumping food or waste in public places was also against Bahraini law.

Public Health Law No 34 of 2018 and Public Cleanliness in Public Places Law No 10 of 2019 ban the dumping or leaving of waste in streets and public areas.

Those who breach the rules face legal action and fines of between BD50 and BD300.

The laws are meant to protect public health, keep the environment clean and uphold Bahrain's public image.

Proposal seeks '28 February' name for Muharraq road

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MP Hamad Al Doy has called for Muharraq Grand Park to be renamed 'Bahraini Resilience Park' and for Muharraq's Ring Road and Fourth Bridge to be named '28 February', after a day of national unity during Iranian attacks on Bahrain.

The proposal, sent with an explanatory note, says the names would mark the stance taken by Bahrainis after a royal order by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to form a committee called 'The Epic of Bahraini Resilience'.

That committee, the note says, was formed to record the way Bahraini society stood together during the attacks and to keep that memory in public view.

The note says Bahrain was hit by missiles and drones in an Iranian assault. It says the Bahrain Defence Force intercepted and destroyed more than 194 missiles and 523 drones from the start of the attacks, citing the readiness of the country's defence and security bodies.



Hamad Al Doy, MP

Al Doy's proposal says Muharraq Grand Park was chosen because of its place near Bahrain International Airport.

That makes it one of the first public sites seen by people arriving in Bahrain, the note says. Renaming it would, in the words of the proposal, turn the park into a landmark linked to the country's unity and public resolve.

The MP also wants Muharraq's Ring Road and Fourth Bridge to bear the name '28 February', saying the date carries national meaning and is tied to the same story of public solidarity.

Muharraq, the note says, holds a special place in Bahrain's history and was among the main



The proposal says naming major public works after the date would help record national memory, link new landmarks with key moments in Bahrain's recent history.

targets of the Iranian attacks.

It says attempts to strike the governorate failed through the vigilance of Bahrain's military and security bodies, as well as the unity shown by Bahrainis behind their leadership.

The proposal says naming major public works after the date would help record national memory, link new landmarks with key moments in Bahrain's recent history, and pass on the values of loyalty, belonging and unity to future generations.

Woman arrested over offensive social media post

The General Directorate for Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security at the Ministry of Interior arrested a 47-year-old woman for misusing social media platforms.

According to the Ministry of Interior, the individual is accused of publishing online content that included offensive remarks directed at one of the



country's religious denominations and disparaging its religious rituals.

The authorities stated that they carried out the arrest fol-

lowing legal procedures, and they referred the case to the Public Prosecution for further investigation and legal action.

The directorate emphasized the importance of adhering to laws and regulations governing social media use, urging the public to exercise responsibility and avoid content that could undermine social harmony or violate legal provisions.

Anti-Trafficking Model Takes Centre Stage at UN Working Group

Kingdom Showcases National Strategy Against Human Trafficking



● Labour reforms, legal measures and victim protection initiatives

● Integrated approach combining prevention, enforcement and international cooperation

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Bahrain has reaffirmed its commitment to combating human trafficking through a comprehensive national approach focused on prevention, protection and prosecution, during its participation in the 16th annual meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Trafficking in Persons.

Held at the UN headquarters in Vienna, the meeting reviewed global efforts to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

while discussing challenges and best practices in addressing the cross-border crime.

Represented by members of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Bahrain highlighted its integrated framework built on cooperation between government entities and relevant organisations, supported by legislative and procedural measures.

The Bahraini delegation included Attorney General Assistant Dr Ali Abbas Al Shuwaikh, a member of the committee; the Head of the Human Trafficking Prosecution Office representing the Public Prosecution; Judge Jassim Mohammed Al Ajan representing the Supreme Judicial Council; Noura Isa Mubarak, Deputy CEO for Legal Control and Protection at the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), along with representatives from the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science at the Ministry of Interior.

During the discussions, the delegation emphasised that prevention and victim

“Protecting victims and reducing vulnerabilities remain at the heart of Bahrain's efforts to address human trafficking.”

protection remain central to Bahrain's efforts, supported by initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening safeguards for workers.

Key measures highlighted included the Wage Protection System, preventive monitoring programmes, the Migrant Workers Protection Centre, and continued efforts in investigation, prosecution and specialised judicial handling of trafficking cases.

The delegation also highlighted Bahrain's experience in protecting victims and witnesses, while stressing the importance of expanding international cooperation, exchanging expertise and adopting effective global practices.