

Royal care for injured during critical times



MP Ahmed Sabah Al Salloom



MP Mohammed Janahi

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's visit to those injured in the recent Iranian attacks reflects a leadership approach that places citizens at the centre.

This was emphasised by MP Ahmed Sabah Al Salloom while describing the royal visit as a clear demonstration of unity and national solidarity.

HM the King, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, visited the injured to check on their condition and follow up on their treatment.

The visit underscored leadership's commitment to direct engagement during critical times.

Sacrifice

Al Salloom said the visit conveyed "a clear message that every individual matters, every sacrifice is recognised, and nothing given for the nation is forgotten," highlighting the strong bond between leadership and the people.

He added that such moments reinforce Bahrain's internal cohesion and reflect a unified national front, particularly during challenging circumstances.

Focus on civilian protection

Geneva session

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Civilian protection took centre stage in Geneva yesterday as the Human Rights Council convened an emergency session addressing the latest developments.

The session concluded with the adoption of a resolution emphasizing adherence to international law, particularly regarding the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure.

Engineer Ali Ahmed Al Dirazi, Chairman of the National Institution for Human Rights, described the move as a significant step in highlighting the legal and humanitarian dimensions of the situation.

He commended the Kingdom of Bahrain's role, undertaken on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council states and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in advancing the urgent discussion based on international legal principles.

The initiative, he said, reflects a consistent commitment to safeguarding civilians and reinforcing regional stability.

ed that the additional cost would put extra pressure on pension funds.

The council will debate reports calling for rejection in principle of proposed changes to Article 90 of the Social Insurance Law under Decree-Law No. 24 of 1976, Article 87 of Law

Hostile acts

14 defendants referred to criminal trial in terror cases linked to Iran

Accused 'prepared' military operations against Bahrain

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The Attorney General has referred 14 defendants to criminal trial in four separate terrorism-related cases, including fugitives believed to be in Iran, the Head of the Terrorism Crimes Prosecution announced.

The accused allegedly formed separate terror cells in three cases, while a female suspect was involved in the fourth.

They are charged with communicating and coordinating with Iran's Revolutionary Guard to carry out hostile and military acts against the Kingdom of Bahrain, providing support for such operations, and transferring funds to finance their activities.

Training

One defendant is also accused of receiving military training in affiliated camps.

Additional charges include leaking sensitive defence-related information, spreading false



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news and malicious rumours to incite panic, and promoting and glorifying hostile acts targeting the Kingdom.

Investigations were launched following reports from the Criminal Investigation Directorate, which indicated that the suspects, linked to terrorist groups, were recruited to monitor and photograph vital facilities and key locations across Bahrain.

Operations

The information and images were allegedly transmitted to external operatives and later used in planning hostile operations.

Authorities also identified a social media account that published images of sensitive sites alongside false information and propaganda supporting hostile acts.

Investigations found that the account was operated by one of the suspects, who communicated with external parties and shared maps, images, and coordinates of critical locations through encrypted applications.

Investigations

The Public Prosecution said investigations included questioning the suspects — some of whom confessed — along with examining digital evidence and



The suspects, linked to terrorist groups, were recruited to monitor and photograph vital facilities and key locations across Bahrain.

witness testimonies, which substantiated the charges.

The defendants have been detained and referred to the High Criminal Court.

The prosecution emphasised the seriousness of espionage-related offences, describing them as acts that directly threaten national security and sovereignty. It affirmed that firm legal action will be taken against those involved.

Authorities also warned against spreading false information and rumours, urging the public to rely on official sources and avoid sharing unverified content that could undermine security and public order.

Four working days 'would widen public and private hours gap'

Three-Day weekend Would Widen Public-Private Hours Gap

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A three-day weekend in Bahrain's public sector would widen the gap with private-sector hours, add to overtime, and risk harming government services, the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) said.

The statement was made in reply to a question from Shura Council member Dr Bassam Al Binnomammed.

The bureau was answering a query on whether it had carried out a full study into cutting the working week to four days, with three days off at the weekend.

Pattern

It said the current pattern is



governed by civil service law and related rules.

Staff on normal hours work from Sunday to Thursday, with Friday and Saturday as the weekly rest days.

Their hours run from 7am to 2.15pm from Sunday to Wednesday and from 7am to 2pm on Thursday, making a 36-hour week.

Other staff work longer hours, from 7am to 3pm from Sunday to Thursday. Those on round-the-clock services work three shifts: 7am to 3pm, 3pm to 11pm and 11pm to 7am. In those cases, the weekly total is 40 hours.



"Public sector staff in Bahrain already work fewer hours than those in the private sector. The gap now stands at 12 hours a week, or about 33 per cent, when measured against the normal public sector week."

— CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU

Rules

The bureau said civil service rules also allow special working times for some government bodies, groups of staff and posts where the nature of the work calls for it, so long as weekly hours do not fall below 36 and staff get at least one weekly rest day.

Any work above 40 hours

must be paid under overtime rules.

It added that it keeps pay, benefits, working days and working hours under review, and compares Bahrain's civil service with practice elsewhere.

Comparisons

Those comparisons, it said, showed that Bahrain's public sector week is close to the average in a number of countries, where the weekly mean stands at 37.4 hours.

It also said the Kingdom's hours are close to those used across the Gulf.

The bureau said public sector staff in Bahrain already work fewer hours than those in the private sector.

Gap

The gap now stands at 12 hours a week, or about 33 per cent, when measured against the normal public sector week, it said.

Shura set to debate bill on rejection of marriage grant increase

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Three draft laws to raise marriage grants for widows and other female pension beneficiaries are due to be rejected by the Shura Council on Sunday.

The Services Committee stat-

ed that the additional cost would put extra pressure on pension funds.

The council will debate reports calling for rejection in principle of proposed changes to Article 90 of the Social Insurance Law under Decree-Law No. 24 of 1976, Article 87 of Law

No. 13 of 1975 on pensions and retirement rewards for government employees, and Article 41 of the Military Retirement Law under Decree-Law No. 11 of 1976.

The bills were put forward to raise the grant after about 15 years without change, with the reports saying the current

amount no longer keeps pace with living costs.

But the Social Insurance Organisation (SIO) told the committee that the funds already face a wide gap between income and spending, even after pension reforms in recent years.

Grant

It said any rise in the grant, though limited on its own, would still weigh on the funds in light of an actuarial shortfall and future liabilities without a lasting source of funding.

Figures placed before the

committee showed the change would raise costs by 34 per cent in the public sector and 61 per cent in the private sector.

The average yearly cost of the marriage grant stands at about BD300,000 in the public sector, with a roughly similar sum in the private sector.