



# ‘We feel safe @ home’

Residents praise Bahrain’s defence and leadership amid crisis



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There is a sense of solidarity among people as they have done during the past difficult times

“We don’t feel like we’re at war; we feel safe at home with our families”

This was the response of one resident when asked how they were coping — and it was far from an isolated view. Speaking with others revealed a consistent sense of calm and trust across the Kingdom.

“Seeing our soldiers inter-

cept threats every day gives us peace of mind,” another resident said, highlighting the visible efforts of the Bahrain Defence Force in protecting the nation.

Most residents said they feel secure despite the ongoing crisis. “There is a sense of solidarity among people as they have done during the

past difficult times,” they said, praising both the Bahrain Defence Force and the country’s leadership.

Citizens noted that every period has its challenges, but recent events have reinforced the strength and cohesion of Bahraini society. “Everything in our lives has positives and negatives, but these events have shown us

just how united our people are and how much security we feel thanks to our brave soldiers and wise government,” one resident said.

The public also emphasised the importance of family, community, and mutual support. “We realized the importance of standing together,” another resident said. “We learned to

appreciate what we have, to be careful with our resources, and to protect our loved ones. Times like these remind us of the true meaning of security and the critical role of those on the front lines defending us.”

The crisis, they added, has strengthened family bonds and community ties. “We check on each other more now,” a resident

said. “We communicate more with friends and relatives, and we make sure everyone is safe. It has made us feel like one big family.”

Overall, residents expressed gratitude for the Kingdom’s leadership and defence forces. “Our government and our armed forces give us reassurance,” one resident concluded. “They make us feel protected, united, and confident that Bahrain will remain safe.”

## Shops face closure, BD20,000 fines under new consumer bill

Tougher rules on discounts, promotions, and breaches

Mohammed Darwish  
TDI | Manama

Shops could face closure, suspended registration, and fines of up to BD20,000 under a new government bill sent to Parliament aimed at tightening consumer protection.

The draft law, referred to MPs under Decree No. 18 of 2026, would amend parts of Law No. 35 of 2012. It has been sent to Parliament’s Financial and Economic Affairs Committee for review.

Among its key measures, the bill expands the definition of authorities responsible for consumer protection. Any ministry, commission, or department overseeing a sector would be empowered to act, rather than just a single office.

The bill also allows the minister—or a delegated official—to impose administrative penalties on businesses that fail to address legal breaches. Penalties could include temporary shop closures of up to three months, suspension of commercial registration for

six months, or cancellation until the violation is corrected. Daily fines of up to BD1,000 for a first offence and BD2,000 for repeat violations within three years are proposed, with total fines capped at BD20,000. Factors such as seriousness, persistence, gain, and harm caused would guide the fines.

Businesses would generally be given seven days to rectify violations after a warning, though penalties could be applied immediately in urgent cases. Firms could appeal a penalty to the minister within 15 days, with a seven-day window for a response.

Failure to respond would be treated as a rejection,

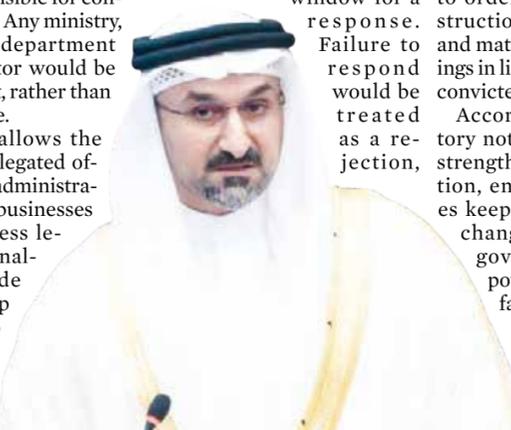
allowing the case to proceed to court within 60 days.

The draft also introduces a licensing system for promotional campaigns, discounts, and clearance sales. After Cabinet approval, the minister would issue rules covering licence conditions, procedures, and fees.

Suppliers would be required to deliver goods and services in accordance with agreements, with the relevant department authorised to review contracts, guarantees, and invoices at the supplier’s request.

Criminal provisions would allow courts, upon conviction, to order confiscation or destruction of offending goods and materials, and publish rulings in licensed media, all at the convicted party’s expense.

According to the explanatory note, the reforms aim to strengthen consumer protection, ensure market practices keep pace with economic changes, and provide the government with clear powers to act against unfair practices.



Abdulla Fakhro,  
Minister of Industry and  
Commerce

## Interior ministry rejects online claims; opens investigation

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The Ministry of Interior has confirmed that an investigation is under way into the death of 32-year-old Mohammed Abdulmohsen Mohammed, following social media reports on the case.

Authorities said the man had been detained by the National Intelligence Agency

on charges of espionage, accused of passing information to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps related to critical national infrastructure, with the intent of facilitating attacks against the Kingdom. His arrest, the ministry said, was carried out under a valid warrant.

The ministry also dismissed images circulating

online that allegedly show injuries sustained by the deceased, describing them as inaccurate and deliberately misleading.

The case has been referred to the Special Investigation Unit at the Public Prosecution, which will conduct a full and independent probe into the circumstances surrounding the injuries and the cause of death.

## 12-hour shifts at Muharraq Health Centre running smoothly

Mohammed Darwish  
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Muharraq Health Centre’s 12-hour working day has not put extra pressure on nearby 24-hour facilities, the Health Ministry said in response to MP Abdulwahid Qarata. Urgent care for the centre’s registered patients remains available through other health centres in Muharraq.

The centre operates in two shifts from 7am to 7pm, Sunday to Thursday, offering general medicine, dental care, mother and child services, early screening, diabetes and chronic disease clinics, as well as pharmacy, lab, and X-ray services. Six health centres in the governorate operate on different schedules: Shaikh Salman



Abdulwahid Qarata, MP

Health Center runs 7am–2pm, Muharraq Health Centre, NBB Arad, and NBB Dair from 7am–7pm, while Halat Bu Maher and the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait Health Center in Hidd operate 24 hours.

Since July 2022, patients needing care outside Muharraq Health Centre hours can access any of the nine 24-hour cen-

tres, including Halat Bu Maher nearby. Staffing is spread across shifts, with appointments still available during operating hours. From July 2022 to end-2025, Muharraq Health Centre saw 392,410 visits, while Halat Bu Maher handled 345,758 urgent cases, 19.86% of which were referred from Muharraq Health Centre.

The ministry said 8,622 urgent cases were sent from Muharraq Health Centre to government hospitals under approved triage rules. It noted Halat Bu Maher is better suited for a 24-hour operation due to size, capacity, and location. Work has also begun on Galali Health Center, which will increase capacity and ease pressure on existing facilities in Muharraq Governorate.