

Expands Access to Special Passports

New Bahrain Passport Rules Cover Senior Officials, Retirees and Families

TDT | Manama

Bahrain has amended the rules governing eligibility for special passports under Decree-Law No. 37 of 2026, which replaces Article 9 of Law No. 11 of 1975 regarding Passports. The amended article lists 12 categories entitled to special passports. They include members of the Shura Council and Council of Representatives; serving government employees at Undersecretary level or above, and those of equivalent status; members of the Constitutional Court; and judges of the Court of Cassation, and those of equivalent status.

Former Chairmen of the Shura Council and former Speakers of the Council of Representatives are also eligible. Former ministers, former undersecretaries and those of equivalent status, as well as former ambassadors and Ministers Plenipotentiary, may receive special passports with the Prime Minister's approval.

Serving members of military and security bodies holding the rank of Major General (Liwa) or above are eligible if they are not entitled to diplomatic passports.

Retired members of military and security bodies who hold, or previously held, the rank of Major General (Liwa) or above, and who had previously been issued special passports, may also qualify. Their service must not have ended for disciplinary reasons or following a final court judgment, and approval must be obtained from the senior command of the military body to which they belonged.



Spouses, children under the age of 21, and unmarried daughters of people falling within four specified categories may also receive special passports. These categories cover serving members of the Shura Council and Council of Representatives; serving government employees at Undersecretary level or above, and their equivalents; members of the Constitutional Court and judges of the Court of Cassation, and their equivalents; and eligible serving military and security personnel.

Administrative and clerical employees attached to Bahrain's diplomatic and consular missions, and its missions to international organisations, may receive special passports with the approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Employees sent by Cabinet decision to represent Bahrain at international conferences, meetings, and bodies are also covered, while His Majesty may grant a special passport to anyone outside the listed categories.

Decree-Laws Nos. 37, 38, 39, and 40 of 2026 take effect on the day after their publication in the Official Gazette.

Global Quest to Unlock the Universe's Mysteries

Bahrain Strengthens Space Ties with NASA at Landmark Telescope Launch

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Dr Mohammed Ibrahim Al Aseeri, CEO of the Bahrain Space Agency (BSA), attended the launch ceremony of NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.

The participation reflects Bahrain's commitment to strengthening cooperation with leading international space agencies and enhancing its presence in international scientific forums and projects.

It also supports the Kingdom's efforts to develop its space sector and build national capabilities in the field, in line with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's vision of strengthening Bahrain's regional and international position in the space sector.

Dr Al Aseeri expressed pride in Bahrain's participation in the event, describing it as a reflection of the strong ties between the Bahrain Space Agency and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

He noted that Bahrain's accession to the Artemis Accords has opened broad prospects for cooperation in space science



The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope during its launch ceremony by NASA.



and its applications.

Dr Al Aseeri said Bahrain's participation in the historic scientific event was not merely symbolic, but reaffirmed the Kingdom's commitment to supporting scientific and knowledge advancement and translating His Majesty the King's vision into efforts to establish Bahrain as a regional centre of excellence in space science and technology.

He added that accepting NASA's invitation to attend the telescope's launch builds on the strong relations between Bahrain and the United States across various fields, particularly the rapidly developing



“Roman will open a new window on the universe, enabling scientists to map galaxies and dark matter on an unprecedented scale.”

— DR MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL ASEERI

space sector, which is creating new opportunities for scientific and technical cooperation.

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, named in honour of Nancy Grace Roman, NASA's first chief astronomer, is a next-generation space observatory designed to explore some of the universe's greatest mysteries.

The telescope is scheduled to conduct a five-year scientific mission, with the possibility of extending it to 10 years.

Falcon Travel Gets Formalised

New passport system allows registered falcons to travel with owners or authorised persons to accepting countries.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Falcon owners in Bahrain will be able to take their birds abroad using three-year passports under new regulations covering 38 falcon species.

Decision No. 6 of 2026, issued by Supreme Council for Environment President Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, establishes a passport system for falcons travelling with their owners or authorised representatives to countries that recognise the document.

To qualify, owners must be Bahraini citizens or residents, while the birds must be legally acquired and registered with the council. Each falcon must have an identification ring, electronic microchip, or both.

Owners must provide a health certificate from an approved veterinary hospital confirming that the bird is free of epidemic diseases. The certificate must be issued no more than 15 days before the application. The falcon must also be presented to the council for verification of its identification details.



Key Rules

Penalties:
Violations are subject to Article 26 of Law No. 5 of 2021.

Appeal:
Rejected applications can be appealed within 30 days.

Further challenge:

Court appeal can be filed within

The council will have 30 days to decide on a complete application. A passport will be valid for three years and may be renewed for additional three-year periods.

The list includes peregrine, Barbary, gyrfalcon, saker, lanner, sooty and prairie falcons, as well as several kestrel and hobby species. Six species are classified under CITES Appendix I, while most of the others fall under Appendix II.

Passports can be cancelled if a bird dies, is lost, escapes, is permanently moved abroad, or if false information or documents are provided. Tampering with identification rings, microchips or passport details can also result in cancellation.

Owners must return cancelled passports and identification rings where applicable and notify the council if a falcon dies, is lost or permanently leaves Bahrain.

Applicants whose requests are rejected may appeal to the council president within 30 days.

The decision takes effect the day after publication in the Official Gazette.

Manama Souq Bids Farewell to Silver Master

The old Manama Souq on Sunday mourned the passing of Abdulrazzaq Khalid Roomi Al Roomi, one of Bahrain's best-known and longest-serving silver craftsmen, who died at the age of 96 after a career spanning nearly 75 years.

Al Roomi remained devoted to the traditional craft throughout his long life, learning its techniques as a child and spending decades working with fire, hammer and intricate engraving.

His death marks the departure of a familiar face from the old market, where his name had been closely associated with silver craftsmanship and a small shop near Bab Al Bahrain. Until his later years, the shop retained elements of the trade's history, including photographs and stories stretching from the



1940s to the present day.

Born in Al Amarah, southern Iraq, in 1932, Al Roomi came to Bahrain in 1948 and joined his father, Khalid, who worked as a silver craftsman at a shop in Souq Al Tawaweesh, now known as the Bab Al Bahrain market.

In 1964, Al Roomi opened his own shop near Bab Al Bahrain. The rent at the time was around 20 rupees. Following his father's death in the late 1970s, he continued the business on his own.

3-Year-Old Boy Drowns in Bathtub

TDT | Manama
Pradeep Puravankara

In a heartbreaking incident, a three-year-old Indian boy lost his life after accidentally falling into a water-filled bathtub at his family's residence in Bahrain.

The deceased child has been identified as Dhyana Surya, the only son of Megha (also known as Alphonsa Jose), a native of Palani Kerala's Kottayam district.

According to family sources, Megha, a long-time expatriate and businesswoman based in Bahrain, had previously sent her son to stay with relatives in Kerala due to her busy work schedule. Dhyana had arrived in Bahrain just four days prior to celebrate the Onam festival with his mother.

The tragic accident occurred



while Megha was preparing food in the kitchen. The young child wandered into the bathroom and accidentally fell into the filled bathtub. Although he was rushed to Salmaniya Medical Complex immediately upon being discovered, doctors were unable to save him.

Megha is an active member of the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS). The untimely demise of the toddler has sent shockwaves through the local expatriate community.

‘Our Bahrain’ Names National Values Logo Winner



Major General Mohammed bin Daina, General Supervisor of the Executive Office of the National Plan to Promote National Belonging and Strengthen Citizenship Values, honoured Eman Hussein Ali, winner of the Best Design award in the “Our National Values Logos” competition.

The winning design was selected from 64 submissions and recognised for its innovative and contemporary visual representation of Bahrain's national values.

Major General Mohammed bin Daina praised the support of His Excellency Lieutenant General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior and Chairman of the Ministerial Follow-up Committee for the National Plan, highlighting the importance of engaging young people and creative talents in initiatives that strengthen national belonging and citizenship values.

A specialised judging panel evaluated the entries based on creativity, originality, visual consistency, clarity of concept, symbolism, connection to national values and artistic quality.

The Executive Office of the National Plan thanked all participating designers, creatives and university students, reaffirming its commitment to initiatives that provide young people with opportunities to express Bahrain's national identity and values through creative work.