

## Overseas voting procedures for by-election are outlined

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The Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf, His Excellency Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, yesterday outlined the procedures for the upcoming by-election for the Council of Representatives, focusing on voters residing outside Bahrain.

Each Bahraini embassy, consulate, or diplomatic mission abroad is to form a committee responsible for overseeing the polling and counting of votes for the vacant seat in the first electoral district of Muharraq Governorate.

These committees will be headed by the ambassador,



HE Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda

consul general, or head of the mission, along with two additional officials, one of whom will serve as the committee's secretary.

These committees will manage the voting process in their respective locations, with the election scheduled for Tuesday, 3 September 2024, and a possible re-election on Tuesday, 10 September 2024, if required. Voting hours are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time.

The directive also tasks the committees with publicising the registration and voting procedures on the elections website and social media platforms. Bahraini citizens abroad can register to vote online or at the diplomatic missions between 19 and 21 August 2024, provided they are already listed on Bahrain's electoral roll for the district.

## Over 100,000 visit Housing Ministry website

● 20,000 requests submitted

Mohammed Darwish  
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The Ministry of Housing's website drew over 100,000 visitors during the first half of this year.

Ahmed Al Thawadi, the Ministry's Director of Information Technology, noted a surge in citizen interaction with the eServices provided through the Virtual Customer Service Centre, which launched last June.

Al Thawadi reported that more than 20,000 requests were submitted via the Ministry's website and the national portal, bahrain.bh.

These requests encompassed a range of services, including financial aid, housing units, residential plots, maintenance of housing units and apartments, disposal rights, and ownership procedures.

He also remarked on the growing popularity of the Virtual Customer Service Centre, crediting its success to the accessible eServices and the support offered.

The Ministry has conducted 507 virtual financial consultations for those seeking financial guidance.

Additionally, 2,453 appointments were scheduled through the eService for visits to the Customer Service Centre, where all queries were addressed and necessary consultations provided.

In another update, the page dedicated to the Muharraq City Development saw over 3,000 visits.

This platform offers services related to property ownership, ownership procedures, frequently asked questions, and information on construction in heritage areas.

Al Thawadi mentioned the Ministry's ongoing efforts to improve its eServices.

## Pardon recipients, minors involved in holding illegal riots

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The Ministry of Interior has confirmed the arrest of individuals involved in recent illegal riots.

Among those arrested were individuals who had previously benefited from a royal pardon, having been released from convictions in various criminal cases.

Despite the opportunity for rehabilitation, some have reverted to criminal behavior.

Several minors were also arrested, prompting the Ministry to initiate legal procedures under Article 55 of the Law on Restorative Justice for Children and Their Protection from Abuse.

This law holds guardians accountable for any harm caused to minors under their care.



The Ministry will hand the minors over to their guardians, highlighting the importance of parental responsibility.

The Ministry reiterates that actions against riots are conducted in accordance with the law, as such events threaten civil peace and the social fabric.

Maintaining Bahrain's stability is a national duty, and the Ministry remains committed to protecting the country's security and achievements.

## High humidity to continue

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The Kingdom of Bahrain has experienced humid weather conditions since early yesterday, with relative humidity levels reaching 90% by the evening, accompanied by high temperatures.

According to the Meteorology Directorate at the Ministry of Transportation, this trend is expected to persist until today.

The forecast indicates a maximum relative humidity of 90%, with some clouds in

the morning, followed by hot conditions during the day.

The weather is expected to improve at night, with northerly winds ranging from 5 to 10 knots.

The maximum temperature is forecasted to reach 45°C, while the minimum will be 31°C.

Looking ahead, the humidity is expected to decrease tomorrow, with the maximum relative humidity dropping to 65% and the minimum to 10%, as per meteorological forecasts.

## CID marks World Day against Trafficking

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To mark the World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2024, the General Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Forensic Science held a workshop on the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to maintain its international status for the seventh year in a

row, according to the US State Department report.

On this occasion, Deputy Director-General of Criminal Investigations and Forensic Science Brigadier Raed Ali Al Meili pointed out in his speech that the Kingdom of Bahrain continued its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, hailing Bahrain's human rights.

# Instant regret

Bahraini man pleads guilty to online hate speech, promises to delete account

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A Bahraini man appeared in the Lower Criminal Court, pleading guilty to charges of insulting and defaming a religious group through social media.

The defendant admitted to posting offensive content while in a state of anger and impulsiveness, but claimed he deleted the posts within two minutes.

However, another individual had already captured screenshots of the tweets before they were removed.

The defendant expressed remorse for his actions and pledged to delete his social media account, assuring the court that he would not repeat such behaviour.

The court adjourned the case until August 6th for further deliberation.

The Public Prosecution, in a statement, revealed earlier that the investigation was initiated following a report filed by the Electronic Security Directorate of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic, and Electronic Security.

The accused's tweets,



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The Public Prosecution emphasised that social media platforms, while vast, are subject to legal regulations and boundaries.

which were publicly accessible, contained offensive language and derogatory remarks aimed at a specific religious community.

After being apprehended and questioned, the defendant confessed to posting the tweets with the intention of harming the targeted group, stating that he had been provoked.

The Public Prosecution ordered his detention for seven days pending further investigation and subsequently referred him to the Third Criminal Court of First Instance, where he was held in custody.

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