

'Long emergency queue' ordeal for SMC patients

Project to upgrade SMC Emergency Unit is currently ongoing; patient satisfaction levels stood at 80pc, as per a study conducted by the Health Ministry

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Long queues are allegedly creating an unending ordeal for patients at the Kingdom's largest hospital. Sources say some patients had to wait up to five hours at Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) emergency unit where a doctor attended the case.

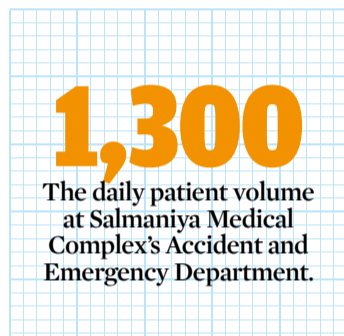
The sources point out that the waiting periods are quite longer during the nights, attributing the crisis to shortage of adequate staff at the unit.

"Two days before, I took a patient who suffered from serious back pain to the SMC emergency unit. He was in a miserable condition, which is hard to describe, unable to walk or sit. I must say that the nurses and the staff at the unit were very caring and cooperative, but the queue to reach the doctor was too long, worsening the predicament," a source told The Daily Tribune.

"We had to wait nearly six hours to reach the doctor, who seemed heavily exhausted after attending many patients in a stretch. During this waiting period, we could see many serious patients coming in, and joining the queue although they needed urgent attention," he explained.



The Accident and Emergency Care unit at the SMC



On the flip side, another source said one major reason behind the long queues are non-emergency patients who report at the unit as emergency patients, irresponsibly creating a burden on the system.

The Daily Tribune earlier re-

ported about a special team being constituted at SMC to handle accident and emergency cases. The initiative is part of the policy being implemented across public health institutions to upgrade the existing health system in the Kingdom and is also aimed at improving the overall treatment experience of both citizens and residents.

The Accident and Emergency Department at Salmaniya Medical Complex receives 1,300 patients everyday, according to a study conducted by the Ministry of Health.

This comes amidst an ongoing project to upgrade the Accident and Emergency Department, where the capacity will be

raised from the current 80 beds to 123 beds.

The study found that the patient satisfaction at the Accident and Emergency Department stood at 80 per cent, highlighting the great infrastructure, facilities and services offered.

As part of upgrading initiatives, five new rooms will be created at the department for receiving patients; eight rooms to deal with non-urgent cases and three rooms exclusively for offering initial treatments. SMC has a busy Accident and Emergency department, which are intended to help people who have had trauma or acute surgical or medical problems.

The Emergency Medical Services was developed in 1985 within the Department of Accident and Emergency at Salmaniya Medical Center to provide pre-hospital emergency medical care services to the sick and injured patients by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), paramedics, at the sense and during transportation to the hospital.

Acute emergency cases handled at the hospital include road traffic accidents, cardiac cases, acute respiratory conditions, all trauma cases, burns cases, psychiatry cases and neonatal care.

Taqeem Committee meeting



Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive and Taqeeem Committee Chairman Mohammed Ali Al Qaed chaired the committee's fifth meeting. The meeting covered the results of a survey conducted by the Taqeeem Committee from 21 June to 5 July that sought public opinion on remote government services that eliminated the need for in-person visits. The responses showed that the services were in line with the committee's goals of enhancing remote customer service experience at ministries and government entities. It also aligned with the government's vision to improve the sustainability of government services and the advancement of the Kingdom's digital transformation. The meeting discussed preparations for Taqeeem 4, the most significant amendments to the Taqeeem guide's latest draft, and determining the next steps for the evaluation process.

Asian woman jailed for scamming and money laundering

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The High Criminal Court sentenced an Asian woman to four years in prison for scamming and money laundering and fined BD46,000.

Meanwhile, it acquitted an Asian man of taking part in the crime due to a lack of evidence.

As per the police records, the defendant helped an unknown person living abroad to seize BD23,000 from several victims through fake bank calls and fraudulent contests.

According to court files, the woman's role was to help the unknown man launder the money in exchange for an agreed percentage. Her activities came to light after the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic & Electronic Security received several complaints from vic-

tims who claimed they fell prey to a scam.

The woman was captured after it was found that the money which was embezzled from the victims' accounts was initially transferred to her account before they were sent to offshore accounts.

Investigations uncovered that the woman laundered part of the money she received by making suspicious transactions.

Police officers also found that the woman used the acquitted man's bank account and visa card. However, the latter denied knowing anything about the woman's activities.

She was cleared of the charges against him as the Court doubted his participation in the scheme. The defendant will be permanently deported after serving her punishment.

Probe call after driving class rule violation



A screenshot of the video that went viral

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Social media users have called for strict action against the violators after a video showing an expatriate offering driving instructions to another went viral on all social media platforms yesterday.

As per the Kingdom's law, driving instructions can only be offered by legal instructors in special vehicles allocated for the purpose.

"This is a clear violation of laws and we urge strict action," a social media user said.

The Traffic Directorate is in charge of issuing driving classes in the Kingdom. To obtain a driving license, the applicant must undergo and pass the eye exam. Subsequently, the applicant can opt for a legal instructor, who will deliver lessons in driving.

The driving license can only be obtained after passing the practical driving test conducted by the directorate.

Tourism Ministry affirms support to Vatel Bahrain



Al Sairafi with Vatel Bahrain - International Hospitality School officials, trainers and students

School serving hospitality sector with highly qualified and expertly trained talent

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Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi extended the ministry's support to Vatel Bahrain - International Hospitality School in its pivotal role of contributing to Bahrain's hospitality sector with highly qualified and expertly trained talent.

The school's development is at the forefront of the Ministry of Tourism's initiatives to develop the tourism sector under the framework of Bahrain's Tourism Strategy 2022-2026.

The Minister toured Vatel's various facilities and met with the Director General Shaikh Khaled bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

She stressed the continua-

tion of developing the school's ability and potential to meet the labour market needs of the Hospitality sector, especially hotels, restaurants and cafes.

Al Sairafi directed the school's administration to reinforce collaborations with the hospitality sector to ensure attractive job opportunities and internships are provided which will enable the students and graduates to contribute to developing high standards in hospitality services offered in the kingdom.

She highlighted the role of Vatel Bahrain in providing quality job opportunities to Bahrainis seeing, as 62% of the students are Bahraini.

"We hope to see more Bahraini graduates in the hospitality sector, who interact directly with the Kingdom's guests, tourists and visitors, and provide them with an enriching experience of Bahrain's culture, heritage and people," she said.

The CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority

(BTEA), Dr Nasser Ali Qaed, expressed his appreciation of Vatel's progress in achieving tourism infrastructure and practical education, making it the most coveted place to study and support the development of the tourism and hospitality sectors in the Kingdom.

Dr Nasser stressed the various opportunities Vatel provides for skills development and guidance including jobs, volunteer work, internships and all that ensures both personal and professional development of the students.

Shaikh Khaled affirmed the commitment of Vatel Bahrain to achieve the goals set forth by the Ministry of Tourism to support the tourism sector in general and the hospitality industry specifically, and build a bright future for Bahraini students, and to help them become the ideal choice of employment as hospitality professionals.

He expressed his hope to attract international students.

BTEA to promote Bahraini family-owned enterprises' private museums: Al Sairafi



YBA Kanoo Group Chairman, Mr Khalid Mohamed Kanoo, welcomes Al Sairafi and the accompanying delegation

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Tourism Minister Fatima Al Sairafi has stressed the ministry's support to different Bahraini family-owned enterprises to start their museums aiming to record their vibrant commercial journeys, highlighting the history and heritage of Bahrain's commercial sector and to promoting business tourism in Bahrain.

Al Sairafi affirmed the readiness of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) to promote these museums during its participation in Gulf and international events related to tourism.

She added that the Ministry supports major industrial and commercial companies in establishing their museums to showcase their contribu-

tions to Bahrain's economic growth and serve as a tourist attraction.

"To add these museums to the list of popular tourist attractions in the Kingdom, a dedicated team from the Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) is developing an executive strategy to turn the Kanoo Family Museum into a unique model that can be shared with other Bahraini families, businesses and industries," she said.

Dr Nasser Qaed, the CEO of BTEA, pointed out that the Kanoo Museum will be a significant tourist destination in Manama Souq once it is completed, saying, "We are thrilled that this building will be incorporated into the Tourism Authority's plan to expand the Manama Souq."