



Four mums ring in the New Year with babies

By MELISSA NAZARETH

TEARS of joy flowed as four male 'New Year babies' wailed their way into 2025 between midnight and midday yesterday at Bahrain's main public hospital, doubling the celebrations for their parents and families.

The first recorded birth of 2025 at the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC) was a boy weighing 2.3kg born at 12.08am to Pakistani expatriate and mum Naseema and Bahraini father of Pakistani origin Azhar Noor Mohammed.

"It's a happy moment for us and thanks to God it was a smooth process," the homemaker, who came to the kingdom 10 years ago after marriage, told the *GDN*.

"My husband recently had an accident and was admitted to hospital, which was stressful but he is better now and I am so grateful it all went well," she added.

An infant is considered a New Year baby if he or she is born on January 1. In some countries, hospitals and business owners even give the 'first' New Year baby – born first in a hospital, town or country – presents, in-



■ Baby Yousif

cluding essentials and gift cards.

Ms Mohammed, from Diyar Al Muharraq, and her husband, who works in the police have four children together – nine-year-old Mohammed, eight-year-old Shahad and four-year-old Fatima.

"My husband would like to name our new born Ibrahim but my mother-in-law likes Hamad so, we'll have to see," said the 35-year-old.

Bahraini baby Yousif, who made his way into the world at 12.18am, weighing 3.19kg, had

his maternal grandfather Abdul Jalil Aradi, 56, ready to greet him as the nurses brought the infant out, wrapped tightly in swaddling clothes.

"This is my fourth grandchild and we are all so happy that he is finally here and that too on

the first day of the New Year," an ecstatic Mr Aradi noted.

"I wish my daughter Noor Abdul Jalil a happy life and happy moments with her son," added the retired banker, who has three other grandchildren aged eight, six and three.

Ms Jalil, who is originally from Arad but moved to Manama after she got married, was not available for comment.

A few hours later, at 9.23am, another family's dreams became a reality as Pakistani expatriate Sana Nisar Ahmed gave birth to her second child weighing 2.4kg.

"My due date was around the end of the year but I really wanted a New Year baby and thanks to God my wish came true," said Ms Ahmed, from Riffa, who has been living in the kingdom for the last seven years.

"While I've done this before when my daughter Yumna was born, I must say it was a tough delivery but my baby and I were well taken care of.

"We haven't thought of a name for the baby yet but we definitely want a unique one like our daughter's, which means 'heaven's flower,'" the 32-year-old homemaker, whose husband works in the police, explained.

Closer to midday, at exactly 11.50am, Bahraini of Pakistani origin Anila Naseer, 37, gave birth to a boy, weighing 3.19kg, but she was not available for comment and no further details about the family were available.

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Bundle of joy and surprise



■ Mr Singh's baby girl



■ Mr Singh with his family and KIMSHEALTH staff



■ Baby Abdulaziz

TWO of Bahrain's renowned private hospitals also reported the birth of New Year babies.

Royal Bahrain Hospital (RBH) reported the birth of Abdulaziz Maher at 10.08am. Born to Bahrainis Maher Al Shaikh and Ebtehal Sayed, the infant weighing 2.47kg came as a delightful surprise to the couple, who were expecting him to arrive on January 10.

"It's such a happy moment for us and our hearts are so full with the arrival of our third child," Mr

Al Shaikh, 32, told the *GDN*.

"My children are ecstatic, especially my son Ali. However, he would have liked us to name him Abdulla after his best friend from school and call him Aboodi (pet name). We have told him that he can call him that but his formal name will be Abdulaziz," added the engineer, who lives in Sitra.

Mr Al Shaikh and Ms Sayed, 27, who have two other children – seven-year-old Fatima and five-year-old Ali said they couldn't thank

RBH enough for their proactive care and emotional support.

"I thank God that everything went well, and my wife and baby were well taken care off," added Mr Al Shaikh.

A couple of hours later, at 12.26pm, KIMSHEALTH witnessed a wail from their first New Year baby – a girl born to Indian couple Mandeep Singh and Bhawna Rani, 32. The infant weighed 3.1kg.

"We haven't decided on a name

yet as according to the Hindu religion we need to select one based on the date and time of birth," said Mr Singh, 35, whose wife is a Hindu.

"My wife and I were planning to have our second child later this year but God had other plans. My seven-year-old Sukhmani is thrilled that now she finally has a sibling; her friends got their siblings a couple of years back," added the expatriate from Punjab candidly.

Mr Singh, who belongs to the

Sikh community, was all praise for the medical staff at KIMSHEALTH.

"They never made us feel like they were busy and were available for the smallest of concerns we had throughout the pregnancy. Even on the day of delivery, we reached the hospital at three in the morning but the doctor, even though it might have been her day off, kept track by asking for hourly reports and attended to our call," he explained.