

Construction firm sacks 99 Bahraini employees

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Cash-strapped G.P. Zachariades Civil Engineering & Contractors, popularly known as GPZ, has terminated 99 Bahraini employees.

The construction company was in focus recently as a group of workers organised a public protest in Sanad last month, demanding pending salaries.

"The company is facing a lot of difficulties in paying salaries for workers and dues for contractors. It's mainly a cash flow problem. Nearly BD30 million dues has to be paid to the contractors," Labour Ministry Assistant



Workers of G.P. Zachariades Civil Engineering & Contractors protesting at Sanad. (File Photo)

Undersecretary for Labour Affairs Dr Mohammed Ali Al Ansari told DT News.

"If the ministries release BD2 million for the projects they did for different

ministries, the company could easily be able to make the payment for the workers," he said.

"We do know about the issue and the company is now

in a process of restructuring and downsizing. The company employs nearly 1000 expatriate workers and 190 Bahraini workers," he said.

"We are closely working

with the company to transfer the workers to other organisations," he said.

"In the coming weeks, we will visit the GPZ and meet the workers and help them transfer to other organisations. We urge workers to be patient as we are negotiating with other organisations to provide workers equivalent jobs and salaries," he said.

"We are also requesting workers to quit who are approaching retirement age," he said.

"All the pending salaries of the workers are now cleared and the Labour Ministry will do as much as it can to reduce the burden of the workers," Al Ansari added.

Man falls in pit, injured

Manama

A worker sustained injuries after he fell into a pit dug for drainage work in Hamad town yesterday. The worker, a Bangladesh national, sustained minor injuries in the accident. Another man, a Pakistani national, also sustained injuries while attempting to rescue him.

"The Bangladeshi worker was working in the area. The Pakistani man jumped in to save him but became breathless and fell unconscious. The Pakistani man was unconscious when he was being taken an ambulance," said a resident in the area.

OIC Meeting

Jeddah

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will hold an emergency meeting on July 24 to discuss the latest developments in Al-Quds and ways to stop the Israeli aggressions on Al-Aqsa Mosque.

MP for new traffic signal system to reduce accidents



Mohammed Al Maarifi

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Manama

The traffic signal systems in the Kingdom need to be updated by implementing new techniques that aims at reducing accidents and traffic violations at crossroads, MP Mohammed Al Maarifi has said.

The MP submitted an innovative proposal last week to this effect to adjust traffic signals so that it would "blink"

several times before changing from green.

The MP, who also head the Human Rights Committee in the House of Representatives, said that traffic lights should be adjusted so it would flash five times while on the green colour before changing to yellow than red to notify drivers that they have to stop soon.

"This proposal is aimed at maintaining traffic safety and reducing accidents and violations near junctions," Al Maarifi said.



Countdown timer installed at a traffic signal in Saudi Arabia

His proposal comes few months after the government rejected a similar request from the parliament to install countdown timers at traffic signals for the same reasons and similarly to fellow GCC countries.

Meanwhile, Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry, which is in charge of road planning in the Kingdom, said the "timers are not efficient and create confusion near intersections".

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