

# Youth Cadres Drive Reform

● HRH-backed youth programme

● Tourism strategy gains momentum

● National cadres praised

Mahir Haneef  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s push to reshape its tourism sector is drawing energy from a new source, the national talents being cultivated through the Prime Minister’s Government Human Resources Development Programme.

Minister of Tourism Her Excellency Fatima bint Jaafar Al-Sairafi met with the tenth batch of participants on Sunday at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre in Zallaq, where she highlighted how the programme is fuelling reform by building skilled national cadres ready to drive change.

Backed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the programme is designed to upgrade government performance by nurturing youth with the skills and confidence to lead.

Al-Sairafi said the programme has now become a vital contributor to developing Bahrain’s institutional capacity across ministries, particularly in strategic sectors such as tourism.

## Linking talent to strategy

In her address, the minister walked the recruits through the key pillars of Bahrain’s 2022–2026 Tourism Strategy.

She focused on the importance of sustainability, visitor experience, and tourism product diversification as cornerstones of national growth.

The strategy’s success, she stressed, depends on capable, creative government talent.

Al-Sairafi praised the role of national cadres in launching institutional initiatives, supporting promotional campaigns, and helping manage



H.E. Fatima bint Jaafar Al-Sairafi speaks at the event

Launched in 2014, Bahrain’s Prime Minister’s Government Cadres Programme aims to develop a new generation of government leaders through structured mentorship, practical exposure, and strategic placements across ministries.

major events that raise Bahrain’s profile abroad.

## Private sector partnership

The minister also underlined the central role of public-private cooperation in transforming Bahrain’s tourism landscape.

She noted that the private sector is not just a partner but the engine of tourism activity, offering diverse employment paths for Bahraini youth across hospitality, transport, and events.

“Tourism’s future relies on the energy and ideas of young Bahrainis who understand both policy and the market,” she said, encouraging the participants to remain engaged and innovative.

The youth recruits in the tenth batch expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to national development.

They thanked the minister for her encouragement and pledged to work as a unified team dedicated to advancing Bahrain’s global competitiveness.

# National priorities

Bahrain reaffirms strong commitment to fighting drugs and sustaining digital progress



H.E. General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa with distinguished guests at the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking ceremony  
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The Minister of Interior, His Excellency General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, has underscored the Kingdom of Bahrain’s commitment to both fighting drug abuse and advancing digital transformation during two major events held yesterday.

Chairing the Ministry of Interior’s ceremony marking the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah praised the tireless efforts of security and government bodies in combating the threat of narcotics.

“Our shared responsibility is to protect our society, especially our youth, from the dangers of drugs,” said the Minister, who also serves as Chairman of the National Anti-Drug Committee. “This is essential to preserving our national security and ensuring a healthy future for the next generation.”

## Ceremony

The ceremony was attended by senior government officials,



The Interior Minister chairs the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Committee meeting

including H.E. Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi, Minister of Information; H.E. Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf; H.E. Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education; H.E. Lieutenant General Adel bin Khalifa Al Fadhel, Deputy Minister of Interior; and H.E. Lieutenant General Tariq bin Hassan Al Hassan, Chief of Public Security.

General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah commended the Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science, as well as all supporting ministries, institutions, and individuals, for their contributions to national anti-drug efforts.

He highlighted the “Maan” (Together) programme against violence and addiction, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education, alongside the Recovery Programme and the Alternative Sentencing Project as examples of proactive rehabilitation and prevention measures.

## Societal cooperation

Brigadier Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi, Director General of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science, also spoke at the event, praising General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah’s leadership and noting the importance of societal cooperation.

“Community partnership is essential in tackling drug-related

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- H.E. GENERAL SHAIKH RASHID BIN ABDULLAH AL KHALIFA, MINISTER OF INTERIOR

issues,” Brigadier Al Rumaihi said. “Security awareness must begin at the grassroots level, through collaboration between citizens, residents, and both public and private organisations.”

During the ceremony, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah honoured personnel from various security directorates and organisers of anti-drug initiatives, including private sector supporters.

# Company worker denies role in drug parcel from US

Mohammed Darwish  
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A man employed as a company delivery driver has denied any part in a drugs shipment brought into Bahrain by post from the US, claiming he collected the package on behalf

of a colleague who told him it contained cosmetics.

The 30-year-old, an Asian national, was arrested after agreeing to receive the parcel, which had already been intercepted by anti-narcotics officers.

They contacted the phone number marked on the label,

posed as delivery staff, and arranged to hand it over at a specific location.

The accused arrived, signed the receipt, and was arrested on the spot. A check of the package revealed what was believed to be marijuana.

Prosecutors have charged

him with importing the drug into the country with intent to sell it, outside what the law allows. He remains in custody.

The High Criminal Court has scheduled a hearing for 14 July to appoint a lawyer for his defence.

# Filipina OFWs Claim Cultural Spotlight

Mahir Haneef  
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A dazzling celebration of resilience, talent and cultural identity unfolded on Friday night as Filipina expatriates took centre stage at the 2025 edition of Miss Philippines Bahrain. Organised by the Filipino Club Bahrain, the pageant has grown into a platform for overseas Filipina workers (OFWs) to express leadership, community pride and personal growth.

Eight finalists competed for the crown in front of a packed audience, demonstrating not only grace and stage presence but also the shared strength of Bahrain’s vibrant Filipino community. The winner, 27-year-old Coleen Jane Dobles from Butuan City, emerged as a standout for her composure, eloquence and



H.E. Philippine Ambassador Anne Jalando-on Louis with Coleen Jane Dobles and other winners

vision.

Runner-up titles went to Maricon Albuna Gregorio, 28, from Bulacan, and Anne Jelyn Rafael, 22, who also clinched two special awards. The judging panel praised all finalists for embodying confidence and determination, qualities often mirrored in the lives of Bahrain’s thousands of OFWs.

Filipino Club Bahrain Pres-

ident Rosemarie Hernandez called the event “a celebration of the modern Filipina spirit abroad” and emphasised its role in nurturing leadership and unity within the diaspora.

## Support from mission

The evening’s prestige was marked by the presence of top officials from the Philippine Embassy in Bahrain, including

H.E. Ambassador Anne Jalando-on Louis and newly assigned Labour Attaché Orville Balitoc. Their attendance underscored the embassy’s backing for initiatives that support OFW empowerment and cultural expression.

Also in attendance were Consul Bryan Jess Baguio, MWO Officer-in-Charge Celia Cabadonga, OWWA Welfare Officer Juvilyn Anns Gumabay, and Mr.



Coleen Jane Dobles with Maricon Albuna Gregorio, first runner-up, and Anne Jelyn Rafael, second runner-up

Yusuf Lori of the Capital Governorate. Their participation highlighted growing collaboration between diaspora groups and institutions.

## Soft power, strong message

Beyond the crown, the pageant served as a powerful statement of identity. In a region where OFWs often face difficult work conditions, events like this offer a much-needed platform

for self-expression, visibility and cultural continuity.

Backed by sponsors such as Philippine Airlines, Gulf Medical & Diabetes Center and BFC, the initiative reflects how cultural diplomacy and community solidarity continue to shape Bahrain’s inclusive social fabric.

This was not just a beauty contest but a proud celebration of identity, unity and the strength of Filipinas abroad.