

Digital transformation 'milestone' for Bahrain

iGA migrates essential government services to various digital channels last year

● Al Qaed outlines Kingdom's digital transformation programme achievements

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The Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) has successfully migrated all essential government services to various digital channels in 2020.

iGA Chief Executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed said that this is a major milestone in the Kingdom's digital transformation efforts, particularly in the face of the challenges imposed by the global spread of COVID-19.

Al Qaed participated in a remote media briefing organised by the National Communication Centre as part of a series of government media briefings focused on the achievements of the Kingdom's digital transformation programme last year.

He noted that reaching this advanced stage in digital transformation stems from His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's vision, which asserts the importance of deploying advanced technologies in the provision of government services.

Al Qaed also credited the realisation of this vision to the



Al Qaed taking part in the remote media briefing

government's efforts, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and the support extended by the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology chaired by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa and Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

He praised the wide-ranging contributions made towards accelerating the pace of digital transformation and developing government service delivery online, to facilitate further convenience for citizens and residents.

The iGA, in cooperation with other government entities, is now providing 504 eServices — 391 via the National Portal

bahrain.bh, 16 via self-service kiosks, and 97 via smartphone applications downloadable from the eGovernment app store, bahrain.bh/apps.

The eServices have played a key role in allowing the government to reduce operational costs by 82%, and have allowed users to carry out their transactions online with 69% higher efficiency compared to traditional

methods, thereby saving time to complete transactions by 76%.

Al Qaed cited an increase in financial transactions in 2020 by 38% compared to 2019, as the total number of transactions was over 2,200,000 across all government entities.

Total revenues collected from various digital channels increased by 48%, collecting a record of BD230 million, and surpassing the BD200 million mark for the first time. The National Portal received over 11 million visits.

Al Qaed highlighted several factors that led to the acceleration of digital transformation in 2020, including the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology's directives, implemented in coordination with the iGA, and the iGA's efforts to restructure government service procedures and complete national digital transformation plans as part of the Kingdom's overall strategy.

This led to the re-engineering of 82 services, which are now more advanced and efficient.

Al Qaed said that deploying modern technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the development of government services has supported business continuity across the public sector, including the judicial sector, by helping to streamline procedures.

Adliya Rotary Club holds Rotary Award for Youth Leadership 2021 ceremony



Virtual closing ceremony

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In cooperation with the Rotaract Bahrain, the Rotary Club of Adliya has organised the closing ceremony of the third edition of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) for 2021.

The ceremony was held virtually under the patronage of the District Governor 2452, Mazen Alumran.

It was attended by 40 male and female students and many Rotarians from within and outside the Kingdom of Bahrain that participated in the award and was held virtually from 25 to 27 February.

At the gathering, the first of its kind in the history of the Rotary Clubs in Bahrain, Holger Knaack, President, Rotary International, 2020-21 delivered the keynote speech at the closing ceremony in which he emphasised the importance of the objectives adopted by the award, which is an integrated cultural and educational programme for developing leadership in the young generation

and polishing their skills so that they become leaders of the future within their social fabric, work environments and daily lives.

Holger went deep into the award's history throughout the world and the extent to which a large segment of university students has benefited from its vision and mission as well as its remarkable contributions to preparing an ambitious generation of enthusiastic youth who are eager to bring about sought-after change for the benefit of various communities.

Holger praised the Rotary Club of Adliya and the Rotaract Bahrain for the organisation of the award, as well as the distinguished effort exerted in promoting this type of objective program among the youth. He expressed his gratitude for Rotarian District 2425's interest in the award. He also spoke highly about the content of the award programme's activities and the topics and discussion materials presented at the interactive workshops.

Dilmunia Canal is Bahrain's new tourist attraction

● 1.7km-long man-made water structure is set to open to the public soon

● Features picturesque waterfalls and colourful dancing fountains

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Fountains dance in synchronisation with music

The much-awaited Dilmunia Canal project, Bahrain's latest scenic tourist attraction, is set to open to the public.

The 1.7km canal is the Kingdom's largest man-made water structure, stretching from the Dilmunia Marina in the north to Dilmunia Garden in the south.

With water features like waterfalls, innovative water jets and dancing coloured fountains, this iconic venue will be a focal point of the island.

The Dilmunia Canal development is being managed by Ithmaar Development Company (IDC), the Development Manager of the 125-hectare Dilmunia megaproject. It was designed by Sogreah Gulf FZE-Artelia Group and constructed by Cebarc Bahrain SPC. The local Ansari Engineering Services supervised the construction.

IDC CEO Mohammed Khalil Alsayed said: "We look forward to welcoming visitors and residents to Dilmunia Canal Phase 1, to enjoy the fresh air and picturesque scenery, including the dazzling light and sound spectacle offered by the Dilmunia Fountain."

"In line with our commitment to delivering value for residents, visitors and investors, this latest development will become the venue for many memorable events and a key attraction for families throughout the year. We also hope the Dilmunia Canal and Fountain will be an interesting tourist attraction in Bahrain."

The star attraction of Dilmunia Canal is the seawater-operated fountains which will create dazzling shows and choreographies by means of elegant and dynamic water jets against the backdrop of more than 1,200 colour-changing LEDs.

There will be two musical fountains spread over more than 100-metre-long with multimedia fountains, which comprises variable height water jets that dance in synchronisation with the music.

Varying in width from 15 m to 35 m and stretching along the 1.7km length, the Canal will host, in addition to the dancing multimedia fountains, waterfalls and different water features: dancing "Palm Tree", bubbling Jets and VarioJets, adopting the latest technologies in the field, which can create five different water patterns.

The entire system is fully automated for a perfectly synchronised experience and is designed and realised by the German-based company OASE GmbH, one of the world's leading manufacturer of fountain technology, in cooperation with its Bahraini partner M.H. Al Mahroos BSC.

Lulu ramps up fashion quotient for Spring

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As the season turns gently to Spring in Bahain, Lulu Hypermarket's fashion division is making it easier to stay on trend with great value buys and brands for as much as 50% off the original price.

From 7 to 10 March, the Hypermarket's stylish Eye Express eyewear store will be offering 50% on the celebrity brand POLICE as well as 30% on other selected brands.

There are also useful and fashionable deals to be had for men and kids who can pick up

sturdy and well-cut clothing from brands such as Van Heusen, Louis Philippe, Allen Solly and Peter England and smart casuals by River Blue. This offer is from 4 to 13 March.

You can also celebrate Women's Day with the lady of your life on from 4 March till International Women's Day on March 8 - there will be a 50% Half Value Discount on minimum purchase of BD10 on garments, footwear and bags and jewellery.

The Hypermarket's fun brand REO shall be giving away coffee mugs with inspiring power

quotes about women and their potential for purchases of minimum BD 10 value.

And its not just a Spring wardrobe but also a home makeover that you can have with Lulu's special offers on a wide assortment of offers and deals on detergents, facial and household tissue, equipment ranging from washing machines and dust-busters to mops and pans. You can also pick up top quality storage solutions and wall shelving for super prices.

Give yourself and your home a fashion treat and head to Lulu for a seasonal makeover!

Nasser Vocational Training Center welcomes National Guard delegation



Nasser Vocational Training Center (NVTC) Director Dr Abdullah Nasser Al Nuaimi received a delegation from the Presidency of the National Guard participating in a military course at the National Guard. Al Nuaimi hailed the opportunity to discuss cooperation between the two sides and the exchange of experiences in a way that contributes to the development of the educational environment and achieves partnership and integration between sectors and state institutions in the interest of the nation. The NVTC director highlighted the educational programs offered by the Jau-based centre, the curricula and the existing academic partnerships. The delegation was briefed on the center's facilities, advanced equipment, modern technologies and workshops during a guided tour.