

# Mosquito menace brews in Hamad Town drain

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Mosquito breeding fears have triggered calls for urgent action over a neglected drainage channel in Hamad Town where stagnant water and waste have accumulated for years.

Northern Municipal Council member Abdulla Al Qobaisi, who represents the Ninth Constituency, warned that the deteriorating condition of the rainwater drainage channel and water discharge site poses growing health and environmental risks to nearby residents.

He said stagnant water and blocked waterways had created ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, insects and rodents, raising concerns about potential health hazards for families living in the area.

The concerns surfaced during a field inspection conducted by



Blocked drainage channels clogged with vegetation and dumped waste are seen during a field inspection in Hamad Town.

Al Qobaisi alongside representatives from the Health Ministry and the Supreme Council for Environment. He noted that officials from the Works Ministry and the Northern Municipality did not attend despite receiving official invitations.

The inspection found large amounts of rubbish and waste inside the drainage channel, as well as dense vegetation and overgrown trees obstructing water flow and contributing to prolonged water stagnation. Representatives from the



Health Ministry and the Supreme Council for Environment warned of the environmental and health consequences of leaving the site in its current state and stressed the need to accelerate cleaning and maintenance work.

Al Qobaisi said the problem had persisted for several years and called for a comprehensive, long-term plan to maintain rainwater drainage channels across the Ninth Constituency.

He also urged stronger coordination among government

agencies to speed up remedial work and prevent the issue from recurring.

"The competent authorities must take the necessary steps to resolve this issue permanently," Al Qobaisi said, adding that a sustainable solution would protect public health, preserve the environment and improve residents' quality of life.



**Mosquitoes are considered the deadliest animals in the world due to the diseases they spread.**

## Kingdom breaks into world's top 6 for digital connectivity



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Bahrain has climbed to sixth place globally in digital connectivity rankings, reinforcing its status as one of the world's leading telecommunications and technology hubs.

The Kingdom rose three places in the 2026 ICT Development Index (IDI) issued by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), securing sixth spot among 159 countries with an overall score of 98 per cent.

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecom-

munications, said the achievement reflects Bahrain's steady progress under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the government's strategic vision led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to position the Kingdom among the world's leading nations in telecommunications and information and communications technology.

He said the improved ranking highlights the success of national efforts to expand digital infrastructure and enhance telecommunications services through close cooperation be-

tween government agencies and the contributions of Bahraini talent.

According to the minister, these initiatives have helped Bahrain deliver high-quality telecommunications and internet services, increase fixed and mobile broadband subscriptions, and expand access to digital services across the Kingdom.

The latest ranking underscores Bahrain's commitment to digital transformation and continued investment in advanced infrastructure to support innovation, economic growth and world-class digital services.

## Women powering Bahrain's global voice

Panel discussion highlights the achievements of Bahraini women diplomats

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Bahrain has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the role of women in diplomacy and international affairs as it celebrated the growing contributions of Bahraini women on the global stage.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs marked the International Day of Women in Diplomacy with a panel discussion highlighting the achievements of Bahraini women diplomats and the Kingdom's efforts to promote women in leadership positions.

The event was attended by Ambassador Dr. Yousef Abdulkarim Bucheeri, Director General of Legal Affairs and Human Rights and Chairman of the Equal Opportunities and Gender Balance Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, alongside senior ministry officials, representatives of the Supreme Council for Women, the



Dr. Yousef Abdulkarim Bucheeri

United Nations Development Programme in Bahrain, and women diplomats from Gulf and Arab embassies accredited to the Kingdom.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Dr. Bucheeri attributed the progress made by Bahraini women in diplomacy to the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and the efforts of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women, in advancing equal opportunities and expanding women's participation in national development.

He praised the growing role of Bahraini women diplomats,

particularly members of the Kingdom's delegation to the United Nations Security Council in New York, saying their presence reflects Bahrain's commitment to merit, competence and equal opportunity.

The event featured discussions on the experiences of Bahraini women in diplomacy and multilateral engagement and their role in strengthening Bahrain's international presence.

The programme included a recorded address by Ambassador Nancy Abdulla Jamal, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations in New York, and a panel discussion involving Ambassador Rana Mohammed Hasan, Director of the Information Systems Directorate, Jehan Al Murbati, Senior Programme Officer at the United Nations Development Programme in Bahrain, and Hatem Abdulhamid Hatem, Chief of the Organisations Sector.

Participants stressed the importance of further strengthening women's participation in diplomacy and international cooperation while recognising Bahrain's continued efforts to promote gender balance across all sectors.



## BTEA closes tourism office for violating customer contracts

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Authorities have closed a tourism office for breaching contractual obligations to customers as Bahrain steps up oversight of the sector and consumer protection measures.

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) said the office was shut after inspections uncovered violations related to the failure to



fulfil contractual commitments to clients.

In a statement issued on Friday, the authority said the necessary administrative measures had been taken in accordance with regulations governing tourism activities in the Kingdom.

BTEA said the action forms part of its ongoing efforts to regulate the tourism sector, maintain high service standards and

inspections uncovered violations related to the failure to fulfil contractual commitments to clients

ensure tourism offices comply with approved laws, regulations and operational requirements.

The authority reaffirmed its commitment to protecting cus-

tomers' rights and strengthening oversight of tourism offices and related establishments to promote professional and contractual compliance.

It added that the enhanced regulatory measures are intended to improve the quality, reliability and transparency of tourism services, reinforce customer confidence and support the sustainable growth of Bahrain's tourism sector.