

# Landmark deal signed

Bahrain and Saudi Arabia forge unprecedented tourism alliance to present mesmerising joint destination

## ● Tourism MoU sealed

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The Kingdom of Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have officially inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that seeks to position both nations as a singular regional and global tourism destination.

This landmark agreement not only signifies a pivotal milestone in their bilateral relations but also sets the stage for an exponential surge in their respective tourism sectors.

It is in line with the wise visions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of Bahrain, and His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, with the implementation of the sound directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and Prime Minister.

The MoU was signed by Tourism Minister, H.E. Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi and H.E. Minister of Tourism Ahmed Al Khateeb of Saudi Arabia. The signing took place in the presence of Dr. Nasser Qaedi, CEO of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority and H.E. Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, President of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and representatives from both ministries of the two kingdoms. The official ceremony was held in Manama.

This ambitious collaboration aims to strengthen the relations between the two kingdoms. It



Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi and Saudi counterpart Ahmed Al Khateeb sign the Memorandum of Understanding



reflects their sincere and determined efforts to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism.

The memorandum includes multiple provisions that expand the scope of tourism cooperation between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, fostering greater collaboration in various areas of mutual interest.

The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a framework for combining efforts to market and promote tourism activities and programs in both kingdoms.

It involves coordinating joint events to attract more tourists, fostering growth in specialised tourism sectors, and collaborating with tourism agencies and regional/international tour operators to create shared tourist destinations.

Furthermore, the MoU aims to enhance collaboration in various areas of the tourism industry,

striving to achieve sustainable tourism development in both nations.

This involves exchanging information and experiences related to tourism legislation, data and statistics, licensing, operation and management of tourism facilities, and developing human resources in the tourism sector.

The MoU encompassed various aspects to enhance tourism collaboration between the two kingdoms.

These included promoting visits by experts and representatives from the tourism media in both nations, enhancing tourist destinations, providing support for SMEs tourism projects, and participating in tourism exhibitions and conferences held in both kingdoms.

These efforts aim to foster tourism development and establish a shared tourism vision that respects the traditions and

social values of both Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Furthermore, the two parties agreed, through this MoU, to harmonise their stances on tourism matters in regional and international platforms, ensuring that these positions align with their traditions and social values, thereby strengthening the bond between the two brotherly kingdoms.

During the signing held at the Bahrain National Museum by the Ministry of Tourism,

Al Sairafi warmly welcomed her Saudi counterpart to Bahrain.

She commended his genuine efforts in promoting collaboration in the tourism sector between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Her Excellency said: "Today's achievements are a source of great pride, marking the culmination of extensive work, numerous discussions, and

meetings with His Excellency Minister Al Khateeb. These interactions took place during our active participation in various regional and international tourism conferences and exhibitions. We have diligently ensured that the cooperative frameworks, as outlined in the memorandum of understanding, are effectively implemented to achieve our shared goals."

Minister Al Sairafi emphasised that significant progress has been made towards expanding horizons through collaborative work teams consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, BTEA, and the Saudi Ministry of Tourism.

A comprehensive timetable will be established for implementation, goal setting, performance measurement, and evaluation based on the practical execution of the tasks.

She revealed that the execu-

tion of the MoU sets an exemplary precedent for consolidating efforts among the two nations in order to promote holistic development.

The cooperative endeavours in the tourism industry are envisioned to serve as a milestone in unifying energies and accelerating growth, leading to mutual benefits for all parties involved.

Minister Al Sairafi further highlighted the anticipated immense advantages that the tourism sectors in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia will derive from the activation of the memorandum of understanding.

She called upon the authorities responsible for private tourism sector establishments and investors in tourism and hospitality to actively participate in this collaborative tourism initiative, extend support, and reap the rewards it offers.

## Court acquits cold store worker of molesting child

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The High Criminal Court confirmed that the statements of a child victim are viewed by the law with great caution, as they are based on inference, and according to the Code of Criminal Procedure, constitute mere allegation unless supported by evidence.

This came in the context of acquitting a cold store worker of molesting a child, who stated in his account that the act did not exceed one second.

The court indicated that the social worker's report on the incident was contradictory and did not explain its conclusion in support of the charge.

The defendant's lawyer said that his client denied the incident; furthermore, the victim's own statement claims that the act took place within a second,

with no evidence that the defendant had committed the crime attributed to him.

He also argued that indecent assault is inapplicable to this case, since it took place within such a short span of time, which indicates that the nature of contact had been accidental.

The defendant's lawyer pointed out that all witnesses denied the de-

fendant's guilt, which is proof that the defendant is innocent of this charge, which had been maliciously fabricated by the reporting individual.

For its part, the court indicated that the accusation was void of evidence.

It also asserted that the social worker's report contradicted the victim's statement and failed to provide a sound explanation for its conclusion. Thereby, the court cleared the defendant of the charge.

## Six unlicensed manpower agencies face legal action

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Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) has announced that six manpower agencies were referred for legal action after failing to acquire the necessary licenses.

This came following LMRA's joint inspection campaign conducted in the Capital Governorate in coordination with the Ministry of Interior (MOI), represented by the General Directorate for Criminal Detection and Forensic Evidence and the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs.

LMRA stressed that there is no tolerance for unapproved activity of manpower agencies that are not in compliance with the provisions of the Labour Market Laws, calling all enterprises and individuals to comply with the legal procedures set and to acquire a "Labour Supply Agency" license from the LMRA to avoid legal accountability.

## Civil Court obligates company to pay BD17,000 to lawyer

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The High Civil Court obligated a contracting company to pay BD17,000 in dues to a lawyer for nearly two years of representation in various cases.

The company pleaded that the lawyer's right was forfeited due to the statute of limitation.

However, the court confirmed that while the lawyer's right to request an estimate of fees is null within the passage of a year since the completion of work, in this case, the lawyer's request pertained to a contractual obligation. Therefore, the statute of limitation does not apply.

The plaintiff had filed a lawsuit demanding that the contracting company be obligated to pay BD17,000, along with legal interest, attorney's fees and expenses. She indicated that according to a signed agreement in her capacity as the owner of a law firm, the defendant entrusted her to follow up on cases in exchange for BD9,000 annually.

The amount was raised to



BD10,500. However, the defendant refused to pay her dues for a period of nearly two years, claiming the forfeit of the plaintiff's right due to the statute of limitation.

According to the provisions of Article (37) of the Law of Legal Practice, the right of the lawyer to request an estimated fee is forfeited in accordance with the provisions of Article (33) of this law after the lapse of one year from the date of termination of the representational work.

This article furthermore relates to the estimation of fees; however, the plaintiff's request is for the defendant to fulfil a contractual obligation. There-

fore, there is no statute of limitation on her right, and the court rejected the defendant's claim.

Furthermore, the Law of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters stipulates that the creditor must prove the validity of obligation while the debtor must prove his exemption thereof.

The defendant did not deny the legitimacy of the signature, seal, or fingerprint authenticating the contract agreement.

In accordance with the Court of Cassation, a document derives its binding power from its signature, and if the signature is valid, the enclosed content is legally binding.