

# Bahraini Women Power Ahead

New round opens for entries

● Fifth cycle now open

● Winners gain investor access

● Projects must show exportability

**Mahir Haneef**  
TDT | Manama

Young Bahraini women with bold business dreams are stepping into global markets through the fifth edition of the 'Imtiaz' initiative, launched by the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) to champion export-ready female-led startups.

First launched in 2011 by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), the 'Imtiaz' platform has evolved into a key springboard for women-led enterprises aiming to scale beyond Bahrain.

Participation has surged since its inception, rising from 11 entrepreneurs in the first round to 98 in the fourth.

Now in its fifth cycle, the initiative is actively calling for applications from Bahraini women under 45 with at least three years of entrepreneurial experience, whose businesses are licensed and hold majority ownership.



HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa with young Bahraini women entrepreneurs

A strong emphasis is placed on export potential, creativity, sustainability, and readiness for digital transformation.

## Support system

'Imtiaz' does more than recognise excellence.

It offers branding benefits, access to investors, expert mentorship, and media visibility to winners.

Participants gain tools to refine their products, develop marketing strategies, and meet international standards - helping them compete beyond Bahrain's borders.

Eligibility conditions include submitting financial documenta-

tion and proof of legal licensing, and showing a strong foundation in buying, selling, or services. Judges assess projects on innovation, scalability, governance, and social responsibility.

Past winners from previous editions have built thriving businesses in fields ranging from food manufacturing and law to tech consulting, interior design, and medical services.

## From local to global

The latest round also places new weight on strategic readiness for international expansion.

Projects must integrate digital tools, align with Fourth In-

dustrial Revolution trends, and demonstrate risk management plans and operational resilience.

This focus is part of a broader national effort to enhance women's participation in the economy, consistent with the goals of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women.

## Flexibility

It reflects a push toward equal opportunity, combining professional ambition with the flexibility to balance family life.

Entrepreneurs who meet the criteria can now apply to join the fifth 'Imtiaz' cohort and take their business vision global.

## Charity bowling event to support cancer patients and needy communities



Centre, Her Excellency Her Excellency Anne Jalando-on Louis, Ambassador of the Philippines to the Kingdom of Bahrain, with Pinay Ikaw Na president Dinah Sta. Ana, left

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Pinay Ikaw Na (PIN) and Good Cause Bahrain are joining forces for a meaningful charity bowling event set to take place on July 25th at Funland Bowling Centre.

This collaborative initiative aims to support cancer patients through PIN's ongoing programs, while also extending assistance to underprivileged communities via Good Cause Bahrain's outreach efforts.

The event promises a fun-filled day of bowling for a cause, encouraging participants and supporters from all walks of life to come together in the spirit of unity and compassion.

Proceeds will directly benefit individuals and families in need, reinforcing the organizations' shared mission of uplifting lives.

For more details please contact the event organizers directly, Dinah Sta. Ana 39797669 and Anet Guese Avila, 33967398.

## Focus on equal opportunities in work environment



HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman chairs the regular committee meeting

## ● Operational plan progress reviewed

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It is important to continue developing more initiatives that support the reinforcement of the principle of equal opportunities in the work environment, and of systematically measuring their impact to ensure their outcomes align with the desired strategic goals.

This was emphasised by His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bin Mohammed

Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour, as he chaired the regular meeting for the year 2025 of the Equal Opportunities Committee at the Ministry.

The Committee also reviewed the progress made in the 2024-2025 operational plan, including initiatives aimed at enhancing competitiveness in the workplace, as well as the ongoing efforts to further develop capacity-building programs and boost productivity — all contributing to promoting the principles of equal opportunities and gender balance.

## Gulf Recovers Population Momentum Post-COVID

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The Gulf region is witnessing a clear return to pre-pandemic growth patterns, with the population of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries

reaching 61.2 million by the end of 2024.

According to the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, the total population rose by 3.6 percent compared to 2023, marking an increase of

more than 2.1 million people in a single year.

The figures were released in conjunction with World Population Day, observed on July 11th.

Since 2021, the population has increased by approximately 7.6 million people, or 14.2 percent,

reflecting the region's steady demographic rebound following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The data confirms that growth momentum, which had slowed during the crisis, has now resumed across all six-member states.

## Summer Awareness Campaign for workers successful

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The Ministry of Interior Community Affairs Directorate conducted Summer Awareness Campaign for workers in association with ICRF Bahrain and the Indian Club.

The event held on Friday, 11 July 2025 saw nearly 375 workers participating from various labour camps.

ICRF Joint Secretary Javad Pasha welcomed Ministry of Interior officials Captain Noora Al Tamimi, Captain Fatema Al Ameer, Captain Duaa Al Jowder, Captain Hamad Al Jar, Ms Nadal Al Alaiwi - Head of Communication and Public Re-



Ministry of Interior, ICRF Bahrain and Indian Club officials with workers

lations, along with other officials to the program.

## Program

The program started with Laughter Yoga conducted by

Yoga Master K M Thomas which was followed by presentations on Fraud and breach of trust, Fire and Safety and My Government App (Reporting Service) by the Ministry of Interior officials.

Every day we hear about rising cases of people losing their money or data as fraud and breach of trust, often targeting unsuspecting individuals through deception and false promises.

## Awareness

Through their presentation Ministry created awareness on how to stay alert, protect data and help others do the same and

build a safer and more trustworthy community.

The second presentation was on Fire and Safety explaining the way to handle safety procedures, fire extinguishers etc.

The third presentation was on using My Government App for a range of services to submit reports and complaints.

## Services

Users can easily register, access various government services and file reports with simplicity efficiency and speed.

Violinist Nitin Raveendran and various singers and dancers from workers gathered entertained the crowd.