

BUSINESS

4,700 bags per hour

New Baggage Handling system installed at BIA, training ongoing for new recruits

● The service currently handled by a team of specialists

● 18 young Bahraini recruits are being trained

● Per hour capacity of the system will be 4,700 bags

TDT | Manama

The new state-of-the-art baggage handling system at the new passenger terminal of Bahrain International Airport (BIA) will have a capacity to handle a massive 4,700 bags per peak hour, it was revealed.

The facility forms part of the recently established Baggage Handling Services (BHS) Department which houses specialists with extensive backgrounds in aviation baggage handling.

In addition, 18 young Bahraini recruits are being trained to oversee the BHS operations in the near future.

The comprehensive training programme includes site visits, case studies, and practical experience as the BHS System in the New Terminal Building is being installed, tested and commissioned.

"This new department brings us another step closer towards one of the Airport Modernisation Programme's main objec-



Officials with trainees at the newly established Baggage Handling Services (BHS) Department during a group photo session



The new terminal scheduled to open in 2019 will have the capacity to accommodate 14 million passengers per year

tives, which is to ensure that BIA's passenger services are at par with the best in the world," said BAC Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalal during a visit to the department to meet the team and review the progress.

The move is in line with the efforts of the Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) to enhance the operational efficiency and improve the overall passenger experience at BIA.

"BAC is committed to developing the Kingdom's talent pool and training young Bahrainis to assume leadership roles in



This new department brings us another step closer towards one of the Airport Modernisation Programme's main objectives

MOHAMED YOUSIF AL BINFALAH
BAC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

specialised aviation fields. We are pleased with the progress the department has made in such a short period of time and looks forward to seeing the entire team achieve even greater success in the years to come," Al Binfalal said.

Working 24/7 on a shift basis, the team will be responsible for the management of BIA's baggage handling system and communication with the relevant stakeholders to ensure baggage is handled safely and securely and delivered on time.

Trump accuses Facebook, Twitter, Google of Democrat bias

Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump took a swipe yesterday at America's tech giants, accusing them of having a liberal bias, and claiming *Twitter* was making it more difficult to follow his account.

"Facebook, Twitter and Google are so biased toward the Dems it is ridiculous!" Trump tweeted.

"Twitter, in fact, has made it much more difficult for people to join @realDonaldTrump. They have removed many names & greatly slowed the level and speed of increase. They have acknowledged-done NOTHING!"

Trump is a regular critic of social media and his criticism echoed another attack on *Twitter* as recently as October, when he again accused the platform of stifling the growth of his account.

The internet firms have consistently denied charges of political bias and many analysts have pointed to large social media followings of conservatives including Trump.

Twitter said in a statement it has been working to weed out accounts that hide a user's true identity or seek to manipulate the platform.

"Our focus is on the health of the service, and that includes work to remove fake accounts to prevent malicious behavior," *Twitter* said in an emailed statement.



Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Dr Abdulhussain Mirza receiving Ibrahim Khalil Al Mutawa, in the presence of Adnan Mohammed Fakhroo, Deputy CEO of Distribution and Customer Services at the Electricity and Water Authority. During the meeting, a visual presentation was made on solar panels, maintaining their quality as long as possible in order to benefit from clean energy and to contribute to supporting renewable energy projects. The meeting was attended by a number of specialists in the Sustainable Energy Unit.

Iraq okays three new ministers, deadlocked over interior, defence

Baghdad, Iraq

Iraq's parliament approved three new ministers yesterday but broke up before voting on the five remaining posts, leaving the deadlock over several key ministries unresolved.

The brief session brings to 17 the number of filled posts in Prime Minister Adel Abdel Mahdi's 22-ministry cabinet. The other 14 were approved by parliament in late October.

New Higher Education Minister Qusay al-Suheil, 53, is a member of former premier

Nuri al-Maliki's State of Law bloc.

Planning Minister Nuri al-Dulaimi, 51, is an Iraqi Islamic Party member while Minister of Culture Abdulmir Al-Hamdani, a 51-year-old archaeologist, is backed by pro-Iran force Asaib Ahl al-Haq.

After the speedy vote, legislators adjourned their session to Thursday afternoon.

The five empty posts include the powerful ministers of defence and interior, seen as the primary stumbling blocks to a full cabinet.

Washington careens toward shutdown with no deal in sight

Washington, United States

An intensifying spending standoff sent US lawmakers scrambling Monday to avert a partial government shutdown, with Republican and Democratic leaders deadlocked over President Donald Trump's demands for border wall funding.

As Washington barreled to-

ward a shuttering of key federal agencies in just four days, the White House appeared dug in on Trump's call for Congress to budget \$5 billion in 2019 to fund a wall on the US-Mexico border that he insists will check illegal immigration.

If no breakthrough is reached, the shutdown would occur over

the Christmas holiday -- when most lawmakers flee the US Capitol -- leaving Washington red-faced at the end of the year.

The closure could potentially spill into early January, when the new Congress -- including a Democratically-controlled House of Representatives -- is sworn in. Lawmakers involved

in funding negotiations suggested the first move would have to come from Trump's team.

"We'll see soon, but the clock's ticking away," Republican Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby told reporters. Democrats are united in their opposition to Trump's ask, saying their intent is to vote

for no more than \$1.6 billion in border security funding as laid out in bipartisan Senate legislation earlier this month.

Trump launched a fresh attack on the opposition party and its offer of wall-less border security funding. "Anytime you hear a Democrat saying that you can have good Boarder (sic) Security

without a Wall, write them off as just another politician following the party line," he tweeted.

White House senior advisor Stephen Miller said Sunday that building the wall remained a top priority and that Trump was "absolutely" prepared to shut down government to achieve that goal.