

Decree protects public safety and reduce accidents

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His Excellency Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Traffic Council, affirmed that the issuance of the decree amending certain provisions of the Traffic Law, including stricter penalties, embodies the royal vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in safeguarding lives and property and advancing the legislative system.

He highlighted that the decree is in line with the government's policies, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to protect public safety and reduce traffic accidents.

H.E. Interior Minister noted that the introduction of stricter penalties under the Traffic Law will help regulate road users' behaviour, deter violations, and reduce dangerous practices that cause serious accidents.

He stressed that updating and reinforcing traffic legislation is a continuous process to keep pace with developments in road use and safety standards, thereby promoting a traffic culture that preserves lives and protects property.

Caring for the needy

State monthly stipends and allowances reach 6,500 widows and 4,500 orphans

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Around 6,518 widows in Bahrain are receiving monthly stipends and allowances from the Ministry of Social Development, new government data has shown.

The figures also confirm that 4,550 orphans are supported through the same programme, split between 2,058 boys and 2,492 girls.

The number of children under state care has more than doubled in the past 25 years.

In 2001, about 2,825 orphans were covered. By last year, that figure had risen above 4,500.

Income

Support is provided under the Social Security Law, which sets out the terms of eligibility for families without adequate income.

Those entitled include wid-



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ows, divorcees, abandoned women, the elderly, families of prisoners, people unable to work, those with disabilities, unmarried daughters and dependent sons, alongside orphans.

Applications are handled through the Registration and Social Services Department in community centres across Bah-

rain's governorates.

Recipients

The ministry also directs aid to people with disabilities, with the latest count showing 14,762 recipients.

Separate figures put the number of families benefiting from low-income assistance at 133,988 during the past year.

Madinat Salman health centre work set to start



Mohammed Saad Al Doseri, Northern Municipal Council member



MP Jalal Kadhem

Contractor wins BD8.2mln tender

Mohammed Darwish
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Work on the Hussain Ali Yateem Health Centre in Madinat Salman will start shortly, after Ahmed Omer Trading & Contracting won the Ministry of Works tender for the BD8.2 million scheme.

The three-storey facility will stand on a 24,811-square-metre plot with 12,303 square metres of built space.

Plans cover reception and records, consultations and medical services, 15 doctors' clinics, a pharmacy, radiology, a laboratory, emergency, an oral and dental health unit with 10 clinics, and mother-and-child services, plus administration and supporting

buildings.

It is designed to serve about 31,000 residents.

The foundation stone was laid in December 2023 in the presence of Supreme Council of Health chairman Lt-Gen Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

Cooperation

MP Jalal Kadhem said cooperation between the legislative and executive branches had translated the new budget into projects on the ground in Madinat Salman and across the Northern Governorate.

He added that the budget carries the largest housing allocation in Bahrain's history.

In the coming months, 1,362 apartments are due to be handed over in Madinat Salman, with a further 131 units delivered through the private sector and another scheme run by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning.

Pinay Ikaw Na honours outgoing Filipino ambassador

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A heartfelt Thanksgiving Dinner was held at the residence of PINAY Ikaw Na! (PIN) president Dinah Sta. Ana, in Jidhafs in honour of Her Excellency Anne Jalando-on Louis, Philippine Ambassador to Bahrain, as she concludes her tour of duty.

Ambassador Louis has been a steadfast source of support and inspiration, particularly to PINAY Ikaw Na, and countless Filipino women in the kingdom whose lives she has helped uplift and empower.

Ms. Sta. Ana expressed gratitude, saying, "Ambassador Louis has always been more than a dip-

lomat — she has been a friend, a mentor, and a champion for every Filipina in Bahrain.

"Her leadership and compassion created safe spaces for women to grow, thrive, and be empowered."

Gratitude

Ambassador Louis, along with her husband Dr. Gerard Joseph Louis, expressed their gratitude during the Thanksgiving Dinner held in her honor.

Officers and members of Pinay Ikaw Na! (PIN) attended the event, joined by representatives from the Philippine Embassy, including Labor Attache, Dr. Orville A. Ballitoc, Overseas Workers Welfare Administra-



H.E. Ambassador Anne Jalando-on Louis and husband Dr. Gerard Joseph Louis with PINAY Ikaw Na! (PIN) president Dinah Sta. Ana and other officials

tion (OWWA) Welfare Officer, Ms. Juvilyn Anns Gumabay and Ms. Celia V. Cabadonga, Super-

vising Administrative Officer of the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) Bahrain.

Moreover, the event gained additional importance due to the attendance of Mr. Yusuf Lori,

Arrival

Ambassador Louis first arrived in Manama on April 2022, assuming the role of Chargée d'Affaires ad interim at the Philippine Embassy.

She was officially appointed as Ambassador and formally assumed her ambassadorial duties on January, 2023.

During her tenure, Ambassador Louis was known for her strong engagement with the Filipino community in Bahrain and her commitment to advancing the health and welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

Sewerage project on track



Thirty per cent of work on the new sewerage network serving Block 1016 in Al Lawzi and Block 1203 in Hamad Town has been completed, the Ministry of Works has confirmed. The project forms part of the ministry's wider programme to expand Bahrain's sanitation capacity in step with ongoing construction across the kingdom. Assistant Undersecretary for Sanitary Engineering Fathi Abdullah Al Farea said the scheme involves trench digging and horizontal drilling to lay a system serving 968 properties in both areas.

An evening of knowledge and celebration

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The Indian Ladies Association (ILA), Bahrain, successfully hosted its much-anticipated event, India78 Unplugged - The ILA Quiz 2025 at Epix Cinema Dana Mall, marking an evening of intellect, culture, and community spirit.

The quiz brought together corporate teams, community participants, and quiz enthusiasts, creating an engaging platform that highlighted India's heritage, history, and achievements.

The evening witnessed an atmosphere of enthusiasm, camaraderie, and healthy competition, making it a truly memorable occasion.

ILA President, Smitha Jensen,



Winners receive their prizes

extended her gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the event.

"The ILA Quiz 2025 was not only a celebration of knowledge but also of unity and shared ex-

periences. We are deeply grateful to our participants, sponsors, ILA members, and the executive committee for their unwavering support and dedication in making this event outstanding," she said.

Winners were felicitated with attractive prizes, as first prize \$1,000, second prize \$500, third prize \$250, respectively, and participants were applauded for their spirited involvement.