

Muharraq Souq: Heritage Meets Development

Field visit highlights efforts to support traders and revitalise Souq

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Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chairman Nabeel Khalid Kanoo has emphasised the importance of preserving the identity of Muharraq Souq while developing its commercial and tourism activities to strengthen its position as a vibrant destination for businesses, shoppers and visitors.

Kanoo described Muharraq Souq as one of Bahrain's most prominent historic and commercial markets, reflecting the Kingdom's longstanding economic heritage and Muharraq's role in the country's trading history. He stressed the importance of supporting businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the market.

His remarks came during a field visit organised by the Bah-



rain Chamber's Board of Directors to Muharraq Souq, attended by several board members, traders and business owners as part of the chamber's programme of field visits aimed at strengthening direct engagement with the business community and identifying the needs of local markets.

The visit began with an open discussion session with Muharraq Souq traders at businessman Fouad Shwaiter's majlis. Discus-

sions focused on key challenges and proposals related to developing the market, stimulating commercial activity and enhancing its appeal to shoppers, visitors and tourists.

Kanoo said direct communication with traders remains a key pillar of the Board of Directors' approach during its 31st term. He noted that the chamber is keen to listen to business owners at their places of activity,

convey their views and needs to the relevant authorities and coordinate with them to identify appropriate solutions.

He added that the proposals and observations raised by Muharraq Souq traders would be studied and followed up with the relevant authorities, aiming to develop practical initiatives and solutions that support businesses, stimulate commercial activity, enhance the market's

competitiveness and ensure the sustainability of existing businesses.

The chamber chairman and board members also toured the Qaysariya Market and several facilities and shops across the souq, meeting traders and shop owners and listening to their views on developing the market and boosting commercial activity.

Kanoo highlighted the his-

torical and heritage value of Qaysariya Market, describing it as a testament to Muharraq's longstanding commercial standing and its links to trade, pearl diving and traditional markets.

He stressed that preserving this identity while pursuing balanced development would enhance the market's economic and tourism value and support the commercial activities operating there.

Serving Pilgrims with Dedication

Information Minister Commends Hajj Mission's Organised Care for Bahraini Pilgrims

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Information Minister Dr. Ramzan bin Abdulla Al Noaimi praised the Bahrain Hajj Mission's outstanding efforts in serving and caring for the Kingdom's pilgrims and facilitating the performance of their Hajj rituals with ease and reassurance.

He highlighted His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's royal care and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to provide the best possible services and care for Bahraini pilgrims.

The minister made these remarks as he received Sheikh Adnan bin Abdulla Al Qattan, Head of the Bahrain Hajj Mission, and members of its Media Committee, who presented the committee's report on the 1447 AH Hajj season.

Dr. Al Noaimi commended



the Hajj Mission's organised and comprehensive work in following up on the pilgrims' affairs and needs throughout the season, praising its commitment to providing high-quality services and care.

He also affirmed the Ministry of Information's continued support for the Media Committee

by providing the necessary media capabilities and assistance to help it carry out its duties efficiently and professionally.

The minister noted the committee's important role in providing comprehensive media coverage that highlights the Hajj Mission's efforts in serving Bahraini pilgrims.

For his part, Sheikh Al Qattan and members of the Media Committee expressed their appreciation to Dr. Al Noaimi for the ministry's support and attention to media work accompanying the Hajj season, noting that the provided resources contributed to the successful completion of the committee's duties.

Labour Ministry Digitises Job Interview Delay Requests

Jobseekers can now submit postponement requests online at least one day before scheduled interviews

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The Ministry of Labour has developed its service for jobseekers seeking to postpone scheduled job interview appointments, as part of government efforts to improve service quality, streamline procedures and accelerate digital transformation.

The upgraded service enables jobseekers to submit a postponement request in advance through the National Employment Platform, with applications reviewed according to approved regulations.

Under the new system, the user interface has been improved and procedures simplified, while the service has been fully digitised. Previously, jobseekers were required to contact the ministry by phone, email or through the National Suggestions and Complaints System, Tawasul, to provide reasons for requesting a postponement.

Following the upgrade, beneficiaries can directly access the National Employment Platform and electronically submit the reason for postponement at least one day before the scheduled interview. Information about the service has also been standardised across all available channels.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa,



Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour, said the service forms part of the ministry's continued efforts to adopt innovative digital solutions that enhance the beneficiary experience, improve service efficiency and speed up completion.

He added that the development reflects the ministry's commitment to continuously improving its procedures and services, while strengthening the effectiveness of the labour system.

As part of wider government efforts to develop and re-engineer public services, more than 1,300 government services have been documented, translated and published, with 800 undergoing development and re-engineering across various government sectors.

Two Identical Houses Can Get Two Different Answers

Muharraq Municipality clarifies rules for turning part of a residential property into a commercial space

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Hasan Barakat

Having a spare room at the front of a house, with a road outside, does not automatically mean it can be turned into a shop.

Muharraq Municipality has reminded homeowners that permission to use part of a residential property for commercial purposes depends on the property's classification, permitted uses and the regulatory requirements applying to the site.

A property classified as residential cannot automatically be partially converted to commercial use. The municipality said the possibility of opening or allocating a space for commercial activity varies from one property to another based on approved classifications, zoning maps and the requirements applicable to each site.

Several factors determine



Having the space is not the same as having permission



whether commercial use is permitted, including the property's classification and surrounding area, the uses allowed under approved zoning maps, and whether the property is located along a commercial frontage where ground-floor commercial activities are permitted.

The location of the proposed commercial space in relation to the road and the frontage through which commercial access is allowed must also be considered, along with parking and traffic require-

ments for the proposed activity.

In addition, the building and the intended commercial activity must meet the relevant technical and regulatory requirements.

Under the Planning and Development Regulations, com-

mercial frontages are plots where ground-floor commercial uses are permitted under approved zoning maps. The regulations also establish controls governing the opening of commercial premises on properties located along such frontages.

Youth explore Bahrain's parliament



Participants in the Parliamentary Junior Programme visited the Shura Council, where they learned about its legislative and oversight roles, parliamentary procedures and the cooperation between Bahrain's legislative and executive branches.