

# BAC plans '90 per cent Bahrainisation by 2021'

80pc of BAC staff, as of now, are Bahrainis

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The Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications and Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) Chairman, Kamal Ahmed, has revealed plans to increase BAC's Bahrainisation rate to more than 90 per cent by 2021.

The BAC has put in place further training and development plans at the beginning of this year to steadily increase the number of Bahrainis within its ranks until the company reaches this target, it is learnt.



“Around half a million Bahraini dinars have been invested in training programmes and certifications, allowing more than 800 training spots.”

MR AHMED

The recruitment of Bahraini professionals and their training and development have been essential parts of BAC's growth strategy since 2010, allowing it to achieve an impressive 80 per cent Bahrainisation rate to date.

The minister said: “Undertaken in cooperation with the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications (MTT), the Airport Modernisation Programme is a massive construction and technical challenge for BAC, especially while having to

operate the existing airport at the same time.

“Implementing the new Passenger Terminal Building's advanced technologies, including its state-of-the-art IT and baggage handling systems, requires expertise not presently available in the local market.

“As such, we have enlisted the help of specialists with advanced skill-sets to temporarily fill the required positions for the duration of the rollout, which is expected to be completed in 2020.

“A strategic plan has been put in place to prepare Bahrainis for these specialised roles and provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to eventually take them over.”

The minister added that BAC continues its approach to Bahrainisation through strategic initiatives that have helped create an attractive work environment across the company's departments, and which have resulted in the recruitment of 137 Bahraini men and women over the last several years.

“The most important of these was the Tahleeq programme, launched in association with Tamkeen and MTT, which has seen 80 Bahrainis, specialised in a range of disciplines, working on the AMP under the supervision of a group of senior experts, technicians, engineers, and architects.

“Other initiatives include the establishment of a new Baggage Handling Services department and an increase in the number of Bahrainis working in IT func-



tions, both of which have had a significant impact on the recruitment of locals.

“At the same time, a range of aviation-related international training programmes have been brought to the country, helping to further refine the expertise and skills of Bahrainis and prepare them for leadership positions.

“With the support of Tamkeen, around half a million Bahraini dinars has been invested in these training programmes and certifications, allowing more than 800 training spots,” he added.

**Derasat to hold intellectual symposium**  
Manama

Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) will hold tomorrow an event where the book “Two Prosperous Decades” will be read out to the audience.

The book was launched by the centre last February to highlight the achievements brought about in the era of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

A host of Bahraini political and intellectual personalities will take part in the event, including Jordanian Former Prime Minister and Vice President of the Senate Samir Al Rifa'i, Egyptian Al Azhar University President Dr Mohammed Al Harsawi, Saudi Shura Council member Dr Hedi Al Yami, Bahraini Representatives Council Speaker Fawzia Zainal and Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Hala Al Ansari.

Derasat Board of Trustees Chairman Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said the symposium will shed light on the content of the book, which highlights HM the King's wise and farsighted vision and his pioneering efforts to achieve comprehensive development in Bahrain over the past two decades.

## Cyber security centre launched

TDI | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

A 24/7 intelligence-driven security operation centre to tackle cyber threats have been launched in the Kingdom.

The new NGN security operation centre (SOC) powered by Group-IB enables the local government, private companies and financial organisations to get expert assistance in proactive monitoring, detection and prevention of any cyberattacks at

early stages for better defence of their internal networks.

A launch event was held with the participation of government officials, C-level executives from Bahraini leading banks, and journalists.

“We are delighted to bring the first intelligence-driven 24/7 NGN SOC powered by Group-IB, based on Group-IB's cybersecurity solutions to Bahraini government and private companies,” stated CEO of NGN International, Yaqoob Al Awadhi.

“Banks and government organisations are the driving force of Kingdom's economic successes, and the backbones of its national stability. Its cyber vigilance is vital with the accelerating pace of Bahrain's digital transformation.

“The opening of NGN SOC

“Banks and government organisations are the driving force of Kingdom's economic successes, and the backbones of its national stability. Hence, cyber vigilance is vital.”

MR AL AWADHI

powered by Group-IB comes at a time when we are witnessing an increased threat actors' activity in the region and frequent data leaks and compromise of personal financial information,” he added.

While traditional SOC's use signature-based detection meth-

ods, which allow to only deal with known threats, the new intelligence-driven NGN SOC powered by Group-IB allows to know what to expect and makes it possible to prepare for attacks in advance thanks to actionable threat intelligence.

The new SOC ensures the safety and security of customers' sensitive information – it is organised in such a way that the information is stored securely and processed on the territory of Bahrain.

“At the heart of any well protected organisation is both technology and people. This is often found in a security operations centre, monitoring and responding to risks and keeping the organisation safe from threat actors.

“For many organisations this

is expensive. Not only expensive, nearly impossible to do well. Not because of the cost, but because of the shortage of cyber security talent. A shortage of talent and the speed of which they are required to hunt for advanced threats is one of the primary reason we are bringing both people and technology in partnership with NGN to Bahrain,” said Nicholas Palmer, Vice President of International Business at Group-IB.

The opening of the first 24/7 intelligence-driven NGN SOC powered by Group-IB tailored to the Kingdom's government institutions, banks and private companies is another step towards achieving a long-term goal of increasing cybersecurity awareness in Bahrain, officials said.



### Notice to Cancel the License of ACE Arabia Insurance Company B.S.C. (closed)

Pursuant to Article (49) of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law No. (64) of 2006 and its amendments, and based on the Extra Ordinary General Meeting resolution of the ACE Arabia Insurance B.S.C. (closed) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. The Central Bank of Bahrain hereby gives notice of the Cancellation of the license of ACE Arabia Insurance Company (B.S.C.) (c) registered under Commercial Registration No. 21046 - 1 issued on 22/5/1989.

The CBB decision was published in the Official Gazette No. 3394 on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018.

**Note: ACE Arabia Insurance B.S.C. (closed) does not underwrite any insurance business in the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

## Iraq hosts Saudi, Iran at parliamentary conference

Baghdad

Iraq hosted senior parliamentary officials from Saudi Arabia and Iran yesterday as Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi seeks to bolster his country's nascent role as a mediator in the region.

Delegations including the heads of parliament from Turkey, Kuwait, Syria and Jordan are also attending the one-day conference in the Iraqi capital to discuss regional security, diplomacy and economic issues, Arab News reported.

The speaker of Iraq's parliament Mohammed Al Halbousi, who is chairing the gathering in Baghdad, said that his country's relations with neighbour-



The speaker of Iraq's parliament Mohammed Al Halbousi walks with the speaker of the Saudi Shura Council Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Sheikh at Baghdad International Airport.

ing states are strong and that Iraq intends to develop them. Visiting officials pledged support for reconstruction and development efforts in Iraq and

for the country's continued stability following its victory over Daesh, after three years of war, Al Halbousi said in a statement. Al Halbousi also stat-

ed that Iraq continues to fight terror with regional and international assistance, and thanked all countries that have supported this fight.