

Royal Rumble IV
will be the best to
date, says Tony Davis

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Bahraini claims global woman of influence award



Najla Hamad Al Fadhel

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Bahraini Najla Hamad Al Fadhel has been named the winner of the Global Woman of Influence 2025 Award, recognising her among an elite circle of international leaders and inspirational figures in leadership, awareness, and healing.

The accolade underscores the strong presence of Bahraini women on the global stage.

Al Fadhel is ranked among the top one percent of national talents in the Hope Talents database.

She holds a master's degree in international communication and diplomacy and a bachelor's degree in media and public relations.

Bahraini women hailed for milestone contributions

HRH Princess Sabeeka expresses pride as SCW marks 24 years

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Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) President, underscored the contributions of Bahraini women to the Kingdom of Bahrain's progress.

She lauded their recognised humanitarian role in building society, and the broad horizons they have reached in achievement, creativity and innovation.

Speaking on the 24th anniversary of the SCW, HRH Princess Sabeeka expressed pride in the Bahraini women's distinguished accomplishments at the local, regional and international level.



HM the King

els, made possible by the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Congratulatory cable

HM King Hamad and HRH Prince Salman received congratulatory cables from HRH



HRH Prince Salman

Princess Sabeeka.

In her messages, she affirmed that the Council has become a pioneering national institution, distinguished by milestones achieved by Bahraini women and a recognised presence in institutional work and strategic planning.

HRH Princess Sabeeka stressed that these gains reflect HM the King's vision to advance



HRH Princess Sabeeka

women's roles and enable their full participation across sectors of development. She highlighted government initiatives and programmes, led by HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, that have strengthened women's roles in all fields and integrated their needs into national policies, further enhancing their presence and impact.

Reaffirming the SCW's man-

date, Her Royal Highness pledged continued implementation of programmes and initiatives, the forging of effective partnerships with local, regional and international institutions, and determined efforts to translate HM the King's vision into measurable outcomes — advancing Bahraini women toward greater leadership and excellence.

Steadfast support

She also noted HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's steadfast support for the SCW's work to build a comprehensive framework that empowers women and ensures the sustainability of their contributions to national development.

HRH Princess Sabeeka wished HM the King continued good health and long life to sustain his support for Bahraini women, and expressed hopes for ongoing progress and prosperity for the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Winning Reform

What once stalled projects for months is now approved in days - and the world has noticed.

Global award for Benayat

Permits cut to days

Bahrain leads in GIS

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

What once delayed projects for months can now be done in just days. That stunning leap has placed Bahrain on the world stage, after its Building Permit Portal 'Benayat' won the Special Achievement in GIS Award in the Government and Production Sector at the Esri User Conference in San Diego.

The award, presented by US-based GIS leader Esri, recognised Benayat out of more than 100 international projects for its innovative integration of geospatial technology in government services. For Bahrain, it was more than a trophy - it

was validation that its digital governance model is among the world's best.

Cutting through delays

Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak said Benayat has transformed building permit approvals by reducing processing times by up to 90 per cent. "Approvals that once dragged on for months are now completed in one to three working days," he said, noting that the system boosted transparency, accuracy and user satisfaction.

The minister added that the achievement reflects Bahrain's

The Esri User Conference in San Diego, where Benayat was honoured, draws over 20,000 experts each year and is considered the Olympics of geographic technology.



H.E. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak with H.E. Mohammed Ali Al Qaed

Economic Vision 2030 and supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals, positioning the Kingdom as a leader in innovation and digital transformation.

Information & eGovernment Authority Chief Executive Mohammed Ali Al Qaed said Be-

nayat is integrated with the Bahrain Spatial Data Infrastructure, linking to property, infrastructure and real estate records. The portal now delivers more than 15 eServices that cut paperwork, eliminate in-person visits and handle permits for additions,

which make up 40 percent of requests, at record speed.

Government entities involved in approvals have been reduced by 80 per cent, private sector specialists are now engaged in reviews, and requirements are published in a unified guide. Together, these changes have slashed bureaucracy and sped up delivery for citizens and businesses alike.

Track record

Bahrain's recognition at the Esri User Conference builds on a history of global GIS milestones. The Kingdom won Esri's SAG Award in 2011 and was ranked among the top two countries worldwide in 2012. Benayat itself has previously won the eGovernment Excellence Award in 2019 and the Bahrain Digital Content Award in 2022.

By turning a months-long ordeal into a process that takes less than three days, Benayat has not just won a global award, it has given Bahrain a blueprint for digital governance that speaks to the world.

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