

Illegal workers cannot get new work permits, they should leave: LMRA CEO

LMRA conducts 10,000 inspection visits and 100 joint campaigns in 2021

● Arrested hundreds of violating workers

● Closed establishments supplying domestic workers without a license

● Registered eight cases of forced labour

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Workers caught for violations of labour market laws during inspection campaigns are not eligible to receive new work permits and legalise their stay in the

LMRA will never tolerate any action which violates the law, and will never stop detecting the violators. Those who have been arrested during the inspection campaigns according to the laws of the Kingdom of Bahrain will never receive any new work permits, and consequently will not be able to be transferred to regular labour, and their only option is to leave the Kingdom with no return again

JAMAL ABDULAZIZ AL ALAWI



Kingdom, said LMRA CEO. According to Jamal Abdulaziz Al Alawi, the only option left for them is to leave the Kingdom and not return.

The top LMRA official made these comments as revealed that the authority booked hundreds of workers during 2021 for violations of labour markets laws.

In 2021, Al Alawi said the LMRA's Law Enforcement Sector conducted more than 10,000 inspections to detect more than 900 criminal violations, despite

the pandemic.

"These inspections last year were in addition to the 100 joint inspection campaigns the authority held with relevant agencies," Al Alawi added.

The campaigns, he said, resulted in the arrest of hundreds of illegal workers and the detection of eight cases of forced labour.

The CEO also announced developing a comprehensive plan to intensify inspection campaigns to address illegal practices and enhance the competitiveness and stability of the labour market.

For this, the authority is working closely with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce

and Tourism, the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, the Ministry of Health and security directors in the governorates, he added.

"These campaigns will be in addition to the daily inspection visits carried out by the legal control sector in commercial establishments in various sectors.

On the joint campaigns in 2021, he said 41 were with NPRA and 66 were with other government agencies.

Joint campaigns with the General Department of Investigation and Criminal Evidence and NPRA resulted in closing 13 establishments engaged in supplying domestic workers without a licence.



Foreign workers employment reached 531,447 workers by the end of the first quarter of 2021. Non-Bahraini employment decreased by 9.4% annually compared to 586,874 workers in the same quarter last year.

Bahraini employment was 153,757 workers by the end of the first quarter decreasing at an annual rate of 1.9% compared to 156,746 workers in the first quarter of 2020.

The number of new employment work permits issued by LMRA during first quarter of 2021 was 36,732 decreasing at an annual rate of 10.6%.

The share of small organizations, employing less than 10 workers, of employment work permits was 47.7% of total work permits issued during the first quarter of 2021.

531,447
Foreign employment reaches 531,447 workers by end of first quarter of 2021

Farmers' market a huge hit, gets international visitors

Market's popularity growing beyond borders, says top Works Ministry official

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Bahraini Farmers' Market has witnessed a substantial turnout since its opening on the 25th of December last year, said a top Works Ministry official.

"In addition to Bahraini citizens and residents, visitors from other Arab Gulf countries also visited the market in large numbers," said Dr Abdulaziz Muhammad Abdulkarim.

"This reflects the growing popularity of the market, and it is no longer a local event limited to citizens and residents here, but rather goes beyond the borders of the Kingdom," said the Assistant Undersecretary for Agriculture Affairs at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities



Affairs and Urban Planning.

The ninth edition of the Bahraini Farmers' Market, ongoing at the Budaiya Botanical Gardens, opened doors after a one-year hiatus owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's edition has the participation of 37 farmers and four farming companies.

Dr Addulkarim, who also chairs the Organising Committee of the Bahraini Farmers Market, said the entry to the market this year is only for those having Green shield on the BeAware application.

"Visitors also have to maintain social distancing and wear masks at all times, he added.

The market, he said, is an ideal opportunity for Bahraini farmers to market their agricultural produces in attractive ways while also enhancing Bahrain's food security.

Farmers, nurseries, agricul-

tural companies, productive families have separate sections at the market. "There is also a corner for dates and another for honey."

For the first time this year, the organising committee, he said, held an exhibition of historical photos of the agricultural sector and agricultural affairs.

"This is in addition to holding short training courses on ag-



2012

First introduced in 2012, the Farmers' Market was an initiative to support food production and the promote the sale of products produced sustainably.

ricultural production, modern soilless farming systems, agricultural pest control, and the safe use of pesticides."

"This step comes out of the keenness to develop and add diversity to the market's activities and remain attractive to visitors interested in supporting local Bahraini production," he said.

The Farmers' markets, he said, is also serving as a recreational outlet for visitors, especially during the winter.

Market doors are open from 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM every Saturday

Weightlifting champion honoured



Southern Governor His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa honoured employee Eman Shakeeb, who won third ranking in the National Day Weightlifting Championship. The competition, held on December 16-18, was under the patronage of First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport, Chairman of the General Sports Authority and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Shakeeb had also won three gold medals in the Arab Weightlifting Championship held recently.



AMH supports Bahrain's National Down Syndrome Soccer team

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American Mission Hospital is supporting Bahrain's First downs syndrome soccer team by providing free health checks and wellbeing assessments to all the footballers.

The new team was welcomed to the American Mission Hospital Manama hospital where they were individually assessed by a team of specialists to determine their fitness level to be a part of the team.

Group CEO Julia Tovey, who was present at the occasion, said, "At American Mission

Hospital, we believe that we must strive to support the community on the whole and specifically the special needs community with the chance to enhance their quality of life and become valued members of the community."

"Keeping that in mind, the opportunity to support the first National Downs Soccer team is a matter of both honour and delight for us. We are looking forward to seeing the team achieve their best, and AMH will always be on the sidelines providing medical support when needed."



The annual event is organized by the Agricultural and Marine Resources (AMR) at the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning in partnership with the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD).