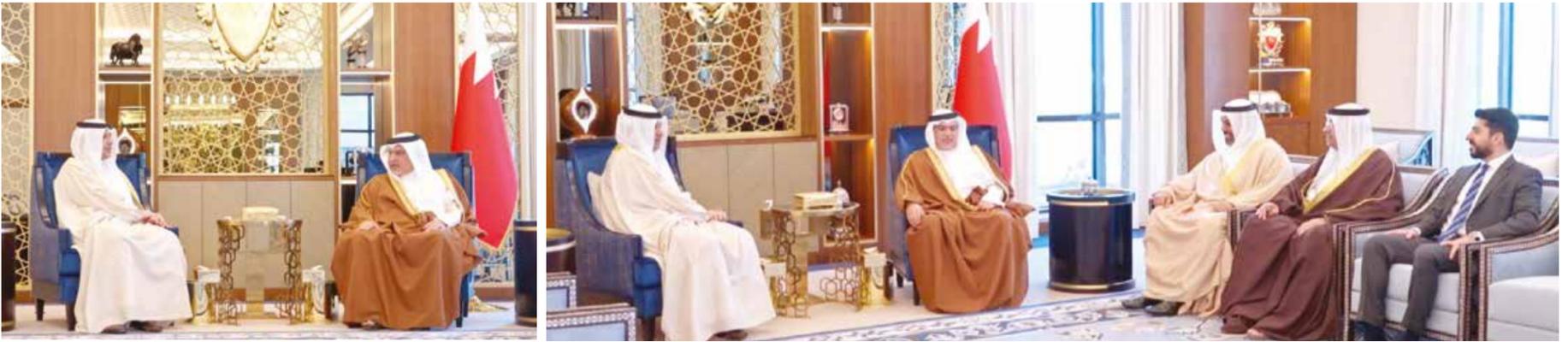


Royal praise for contributions



The Deputy King, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, yesterday received His Excellency Eng. Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed, President of the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA), at Gudabiya Palace. HRH Prince Salman reiterated that the Kingdom's ongoing progress is driven by the unwavering efforts and dedication of Bahraini citizens who continue to further the Kingdom's comprehensive development, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. His Royal Highness commended the contributions of H.E. Eng. Kamal bin Ahmed, as part of Team Bahrain, in enhancing government performance and advancing workstreams in support of achieving the Kingdom's development goals. H.E. Eng. Kamal assumed several leadership roles, including Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Development Board, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bahrain Airport Company, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC), and President of the EWA. In these positions, he oversaw the implementation of key national initiatives and projects.

Cleaner future

Ban on single-use plastic bags under 57 microns

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Single-use plastic carrier bags thinner than 57 microns will be barred from manufacture, import and sale under a new Ministry of Industry and Commerce decision published in the latest edition of the Official Gazette.

Decision No. 7 of 2026 bans any one-time-use bag made of plastic, or containing plastic, that falls below the threshold.

It applies to carry and hand-transport bags used for goods and equipment, with or without handles.

The rule covers bags handed to shoppers at points of sale as well as those sold on their own or in packs.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Categories

Three categories are exempt: bags used for household rubbish and hazardous healthcare waste, packaging bags pre-filled with food, and bags made for export. The ministry's standards and



The decision bans any one-time-use bag made of plastic, or containing plastic, that falls below the threshold.

metrology directorate must also produce an advisory guide, in coordination with the executive body of the Supreme Council for

Environment, describing the bag types covered and the design and use rules.

The guide will be updated from time to time.

Penalties

Anyone who breaches the decision faces the penalties laid down in Law No. 9 of 2016 on Standards and Metrology, without prejudice to harsher penalties under other laws.

The new decision repeals Decision No. 14 of 2022, which had banned single-use plastic bags thinner than 35 microns.

The ban takes effect six months after publication in the Official Gazette, with the undersecretary and relevant authorities tasked with implementation.



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