

Heroes on duty



Lieutenant General Tariq Al Hassan, Chief of Police, honoured two Special Security Force officers, Mohammed Majed and Bilal Akbar, for their quick thinking and dedication in rescuing a three-year-old child from drowning. The officers provided first aid on the spot before the child was transferred to the hospital for treatment. The Chief of Police praised their swift response and professionalism, highlighting that their humanitarian act exemplifies the values upheld by police personnel and demonstrates the Ministry of Interior’s readiness and efficiency in handling emergencies.

Eskan Bank coordinating with banks to accelerate housing finance

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Following the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to accelerate housing projects and provide 50,000 new housing units, and the order of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to commence the provision of 7,000 housing services, Abdulla Taleb, Director General of the Eskan Bank, said the bank is maintaining ongoing coordination with financing



banks to expedite the disbursement of housing finance to beneficiaries. Taleb said the Eskan Bank, in coordination with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, is implementing the plan to provide housing services to citizens, including ownership services and housing finance programmes, through coordination with participating banks to begin disbursing financing under the “Tas’heel”, “Tas’heel+”, and the newly introduced “Mazaya” category.

Housewife caught with marijuana hidden in sweets

The suspect came to collect the parcel, initially claiming it contained cosmetics

- The woman admitted to using drugs in court
- Tests confirmed marijuana and cannabis

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A Bahraini housewife has landed in the dock at the High Criminal Court for

attempting to smuggle nearly 200 grams of marijuana into the country, cleverly hidden in a parcel of sweets and food items. The court has scheduled the hearing for 30 December, ordering the suspect to remain in custody and appointing a defence lawyer to represent her. Prosecutors stated that the parcel, sent from a European country, arrived at Bahrain International Airport and was

flagged during an X-ray scan due to an unusual mass inside. Upon inspection, authorities found food items and confectionery alongside small bags and containers holding a herbal substance weighing approximately 194.15 grams, suspected to be marijuana. The following day, the suspect came to collect the parcel, claiming it contained cosmetics. When opened before her, she admitted the contents were marijuana and revealed that an

Asian national had asked her to collect the package. The Public Prosecution charged her with importing marijuana and possessing cannabis, also known as hashish, for personal use. Anti-narcotics officers further discovered a cigarette containing a suspected narcotic substance in her car near the post office in Al Hidd. During a search of her home, police recovered a dark-coloured piece believed to be hashish, rolling papers, and a



Representative image

sensitive scale. In statements to prosecutors, the suspect admitted collecting the parcel in exchange for 30 grams of hashish and acknowledged her personal use of the drug. Laboratory tests confirmed the seized items contained cannabis and marijuana, while her urine sample tested positive for cannabis. During the court hearing, she admitted to using drugs but denied any involvement in importing them.

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Extreme vetting need of the hour

MP warns of fake certificates in key professions

- Closer coordination urged between regulators and professional bodies to protect the labour market

Mohammed Darwish
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Qualified nationals should be given priority in recruitment, rather than workers with questionable paperwork. The comments were made by MP Jalal Kadhém, who said such practices are harming the prospects of well-qualified Bahraini job seekers.

He said the issue can only be addressed through strict measures, including rigorous verification of academic and professional credentials. Kadhém also accused employers of recruiting from abroad while overlooking Bahrainis who are qualified for the same roles. “Priority should be given to nationals, not to workers with questionable paperwork,” he said. As a solution, he called for closer coordination between the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and professional bodies in each sector, noting



MP JALAL KADHEM

Many roles filled through overseas recruitment already have Bahraini candidates, and priority should be given to nationals rather than workers supported by questionable paperwork.

that some professions require specialist assessment before licences are issued or overseas recruitment is approved. Referring to engineering, Kadhém said specialist committees comprising representatives from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, the Ministry of Works and the Bahrain Society of Engineers should be involved in verifying qualifications. He also urged stronger co-operation with civil society organisations, pointing out that professional associations for engineers, lawyers and doctors include Bahraini experts who

can support monitoring and follow-up. Kadhém said cases involving so-called “paper” qualifications and forged certificates have been recorded in several sensitive sectors, including law, healthcare, education and engineering, with a number of cases referred to the Public Prosecution. He further warned that social media has contributed to the spread of unrecognised titles, while in some densely populated countries certificate forgery is reportedly offered for small sums to individuals seeking work overseas.