

Outstanding private sector workers honoured

40th annual Ministry of Labour ceremony



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Outstanding workers in the private sector were honoured yesterday by the Ministry of Labour under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in conjunction with Bahrain's National Day celebrations and the 26th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne.

The 40th annual ceremony recognised distinguished national figures, human resources professionals, institutions, and exemplary employees from across Bahrain's economic and productive sectors. The event was attended by Ahmed bin Sal-

man Al Musallam, Speaker of the Council of Representatives; Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, Minister of Labour and Minister of Legal Affairs; members of both the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council; Sameer Abdulla Nass, Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry; representatives of trade unions and labour organisations; as well as the honourees and delegates from participating companies.

In his opening address, the Minister of Labour highlighted the government's ongoing initiative to provide three job opportunities for every registered jobseeker before the end of the

year, reflecting the leadership's commitment to placing Bahraini citizens at the centre of government policies.

The minister praised labour unions for protecting workers' rights, promoting social dialogue, and supporting productivity growth, while recognising employers' role in providing stable and motivating work environments.

Special recognition was given to Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan for his long-standing contributions to employment, workforce development, and labour rights. The minister also commended the legislative authority for its continued support of labour-related issues and

workers' rights.

Speaking on behalf of the honourees, Ameena Abdulnabi Al Banna, Senior Trainer at Silah Gulf, expressed pride in receiving national recognition, describing it as an incentive to continue contributing to Bahrain's development and excellence across economic sectors.

The ceremony concluded with the Minister of Labour presenting certificates of appreciation and commemorative shields to distinguished companies, administrators, entrepreneurs, and exemplary workers, representing a wide range of categories across the national economy.



300 waste recycling points now active



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The Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture has completed the installation of 300 recycling and waste management points across all governorates, the Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs, Engineer Sheikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, announced. Collection of recyclable waste from these points has been underway since January 2025, in coordination with the Capital Governorate Secretariat and local municipal councils.

Sheikh Mohammed highlighted that from January to October 2025, a total of 279 tonnes of recyclable waste was collected through the sorting points. This included 209 tonnes of paper and cardboard, 28 tonnes of plastic, 28 tonnes of glass, and 14 tonnes of metals. He noted that clean-



ing companies, in cooperation with local recycling firms and NGOs, ensure that collected materials are sorted and recycled according to type, with a focus on maximising recovery from mixed waste to achieve the highest efficiency in recycling operations.

Each recycling point is equipped with separate bins for glass, plastic, metals, paper, and cardboard, placed in easily accessible locations. Special collection mechanisms will be used to streamline the transfer of these materials for processing.

All cleaning bins have been fitted with sensor systems to allow multiple daily emptying when full. An electronic system monitors each bin, ensuring proper collection, disinfection, and washing, while tracking the movement of cleaning vehicles to maintain public hygiene across all areas.

National Digital Economy Strategy Steering Committee



The National Digital Economy Strategy (NDES) Steering Committee held its fourth meeting, led by Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive and Committee Chairman Mr. Mohammed Al Qaed. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Prime Minister Office, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Economic Development Board (EDB), and the Labor Fund (Tamkeen). Al Qaed said that the meeting focused on strengthening coordination among the entities implementing the national initiatives to support their timely completion and the achievement of the strategy's goals.

Thirteen go on trial in major drug smuggling and distribution case

Mohammed Darwish
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Thirteen defendants appeared before the High Criminal Court in a major narcotics case, after the Anti-Narcotics Directorate said it dismantled a network involved in smuggling drugs into Bahrain and distributing them locally for profit. The court adjourned the case to 29 December and ordered the continued detention of the first to seventh defendants.

The Public Prosecution charged the first defendant with possessing and trafficking narcotics during 2025, as well as holding drugs for per-

sonal use. The remaining defendants are accused of using narcotic and psychotropic substances.

According to investigators, the first defendant sold drugs within his social circle. Arrests were carried out at several locations, with the second and fifth defendants detained at the King Fahd Causeway and the first defendant arrested later the same day. A search of his residence led to the arrest of the fourth defendant, who was found in the same building.

Police said the third and ninth defendants were arrested when they went to a security directorate to enquire about the first and second de-

fendants. Two days later, the fifth defendant was arrested at Bahrain International Airport, while the remaining suspects were detained on different dates.

Further investigations indicated that the second defendant, his sister, the third defendant, and the fifth defendant allegedly smuggled drugs from a Gulf country through the King Fahd Causeway. Investigators also told the court that the first defendant had a prior drug conviction abroad dating back to 2012, for which he received a prison sentence, flogging and a deportation order, before later settling in Bahrain.

Searches of the first defend-

ant's home uncovered narcotics, psychotropic substances, medical tablets, and equipment used for packing, selling and consuming drugs, police said. Officers also seized cash in several currencies, three gold bars, a watch and a gold chain, which the first defendant admitted belonged to him. A search of the fourth defendant's residence led to the seizure of narcotic tablets and cash.

During questioning, the first defendant admitted to drug use and said he had purchased some of the seized substances on about four occasions over a year. The remaining defendants also admitted to using drugs, prosecutors said.

From guards to gadgets

● Parks to embrace e-surveillance

Mohammed Darwish
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The Capital Trustees Board yesterday moved a step closer to turning Bahrain's parks into smart, digitally monitored spaces, approving a plan to gradually replace some security guards with electronic surveillance systems.

The proposal, put forward by board member Engineer Mohammed Tawfiq Al Abbas and reviewed by the Services and Public Facilities Committee, aims to boost security, enhance visitor experience, and align park management with smart city trends.

Al Abbas said the initiative seeks to shift from reliance on human guards to modern electronic systems, ensuring round-the-clock coverage across all park areas and improving operational efficiency.

Supporters of the plan said electronic monitoring could reduce human error, speed up responses to incidents, and cut guarding-related maintenance and operating costs by up to 60%. The savings could



Dr Abdulhassan Al Dairi, Capital Trustees Board member

then be redirected towards park upkeep and upgrades. The proposed system includes high-definition cameras covering entrances and main routes, motion and alarm sensors at key points, and secure recording and data storage via a central or cloud-based platform. A dedicated monitoring room linked to the Capital Trustees Board's operations centre and relevant authorities is also planned, along with visible signage informing visitors of 24-hour surveillance.

The recommendation envisions a phased rollout, starting with electronic systems complementing existing guards, with potential for full expansion after the pilot phase is evaluated.