

Two jailed for forced labour trafficking



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Two defendants have been sentenced to three years in prison and fined BDL1,000 each by the First High Criminal Court for trafficking two victims into forced labour.

The ruling also ordered the permanent deportation of the first defendant once she has served her sentence.

The prosecution said the case began with a report from the victims, who accused the defendants of exploiting them by forcing them into tasks different from those agreed, without pay, against their will, under threat and for long hours.

Complaint

Investigators moved quickly after the complaint.

The victims gave statements, the defendants were questioned, and police enquiries confirmed the account.

Testimony from the investigating officers supported the claims.

The prosecution then referred the matter to court, which handed down Wednesday's verdict.

'Clear steps to raise educational system'

MP Kadhem backs parent briefings as schools ready for new term

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

With schools being readied and curricula updated for the new term, MP Jalal Kadhem backed parent briefings and said the Ministry of Education, led by His Excellency Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, "is moving with clear steps to raise the educational system".

He welcomed the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to hold orientation events for parents in public schools so they can review programmes and plans for the new academic year.

Care

He called it "a step that shows the leadership's care to cement effective communication between family and school, helping to build a learning environment that encourages success".

Kadhem said appointing Bahraini professionals across teaching and administrative posts is among the clearest gains of recent work.

This, he added, "shows strong confidence in national cadres to lead education, in line with the leadership's vision to enable



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Bahraini citizens and strengthen their role in serving the nation".

Support

He voiced support for the ministry's start-of-term preparations: getting schools ready

learning resources are in place, alongside other steps to lift the quality of schooling.

Kadhem said the past few years have brought a run of decisions and measures that serve students, staff and parents.

"I am confident in Minister Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma's management of this key sector and his ability to keep improving education in line with people's hopes," he said.

He also pointed to the ministry's recent humanitarian bent, citing attention to social cases, follow-up of community issues, and support for students and their families in exceptional circumstances, whether through field efforts or positive engagement on social media.

Solidarity

This approach, he said, "has strengthened solidarity and social responsibility, had a positive effect on families and the wider community, and reinforced trust in the ministry's human and educational role".

He concluded that Parliament backs the ministry's plans, saying education remains a main pillar of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's reform project and a foundation for Bahrain's economic and development vision.

"It is a step that shows the leadership's care to cement effective communication between family and school, helping to build a learning environment that encourages success."

- MP JALAL KADHEM

and maintaining facilities, updating curricula, improving school infrastructure, enabling teaching and administrative talent, and ensuring modern

Open registration for Hajj season



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The Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs held a meeting to follow up on preparations for the 1447 AH (2026) Hajj season.

The committee announced that registration will open on Wednesday, September 3, at 9 am, and will remain available until midnight on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, through the electronic key system via the Hajj platform haj.gov.bh.

The committee reviewed the latest updates to the Hajj platform, designed to simplify registration procedures and provide smoother services.

In addition to receiving applications from those wishing to perform Hajj, the platform enables users to view tour operators' offers and track their application status.

The committee urged applicants to first register through the eKey 2.0 application and to update their information in the Government Notifications System (NotifyMe) available on the national portal bahrain.bh.

It also emphasised that applicants must hold a valid ID card and may include up to four companions under a single application.

10 firms praised for hiring 923 Bahrainis in first half of 2025

Mohammed Darwish
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The Labour Ministry has named 10 firms for bringing in the highest number of Bahraini recruits in the second quarter of 2025, between April and June.

Hundreds of nationals were hired during this period by Lulu Bahrain Hypermarket, Bahrain Apparel, Gulf Air Group Holding, McDonald's, Sixpence HR Solutions, Array Innovation, Barbecue Town, Nass Contracting, Al Hilal Multi-Specialty Medical Centre and Al Helli Supermarket.

From January through June, 10 companies together hired about 923 Bahrainis.

Lulu Bahrain Hypermarket

topped the list with 157 new staff, followed by McDonald's with 148 and Silah Gulf with 109. Gulf Air Group came next with 97, while Bahrain Apparel Trading added 85.

Sixpence HR Solutions employed 81, Zain 67, Al Jazira Supermarket 66, Al Helli Supermarket 58, and the Bapco Refining staff branch 55.

Other companies also brought in Bahraini workers during the same period.

ASB Security Solutions and Bahrain Airport Services each hired 53. Data Direct Bahrain Solutions and Al Mihwar Restaurant each added 51. Gastro-nomic Bahrain brought in 50, Al Raja School 46, Centrepoint 42, and Total CX and Eagle Security and Safety 41.

ASU First to Fast-Track Diploma Holders

● First private bridging pathway

● Two-year fast degree track

● Saudi students invited

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

For diploma holders in Bahrain and the wider region, a long-standing barrier to higher education has just been broken. Applied Science University (ASU) has unveiled the Kingdom's first accredited Bridging Programme by a private university, giving students a fast-track route to a bachelor's degree in as little as two years.

Breaking the barrier Until now, diploma graduates often faced limited progression options. ASU's new pathway changes that equation, offering officially recognised bridging into disciplines like Computer Science and into dual-award British engineering degrees delivered with London South Bank



Applied Science University (ASU)

University (LSBU). Students can choose from BEng (Hons) Civil, Architectural, Mechanical, or Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

The programme reduces the time to a full degree to two to two-and-a-half years, effectively collapsing what could have been a long academic detour into a swift and accredited transition.

The university has also ex-

tended bridging into its wider portfolio of programmes in Arabic and English, spanning Business Administration, Accounting, Political Science, Management Information Systems, Law, Graphic Design, and Interior Design. Dual-award British degrees such as the LLB (Hons) Law and BA (Hons) Business Management are also available through LSBU partnerships.

Professor Hatem Masri, Pres-

ident of ASU, said the initiative reflects a forward-looking vision to expand academic opportunities across the region, with a particular focus on students from Saudi Arabia. He noted that the programme strengthens both academic knowledge and practical skills to align with labour market demands.

Global recognition

ASU's standing underpins this development. The university holds a QS 5-Star rating and was the first Bahraini institution accredited by the UK's QAA across all its programmes. With advanced facilities, research-driven teaching, and internationally experienced faculty, ASU guarantees that its graduates are globally competitive and attractive to employers.

Professor Masri invited ambitious students, including those in Saudi Arabia, to explore the new option by contacting the university through WhatsApp at +973 6663 3770. He stressed that ASU offers a dynamic environment, strong student support, and internationally recognised programmes designed to prepare graduates for leadership and excellence.

Bahrain-US labour cooperation



The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) received a delegation from the United States Congress at the Expatriate Protection Centre, in the presence of representatives from the US Department of State. The delegation was briefed on the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to continue strengthening a stable work environment that safeguards the rights of all parties, in addition to the pioneering initiatives implemented by the Kingdom in this sector, particularly the Wage Protection System (WPS) and the Regional Centre of Excellence and Capacity Building for Combating Trafficking in Persons (RCOE).