

New Fishing Law takes effect today

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TDT | Manama

Bahrain's new Fishing Law takes effect today, requiring the presence of a Bahraini fisherman on all vessels engaged in commercial sea fishing.

The legislation also links crew sizes to vessel length and imposes fines and jail terms for violations.

Licence

To secure a fisherman's licence, the applicant must be Bahraini, aged 18 or over, fit to work at sea, and free of any prior conviction for a felony or a misdemeanour involving dishonour or breach of trust unless legally rehabilitated.

The licence must show the fisherman's details and the employer's details. The fisherman



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may not work for any employer other than the one named on the licence.

The licence is personal, cannot be transferred or assigned, must be shown to the competent authorities on request, runs for

one year, and may be renewed on the same terms.

Offence

Penalties vary by offence. Breaching key provisions carries imprisonment of

not less than one month and not more than six months, with fines from BD1,000 to BD5,000.

Other articles allow up to one month's imprisonment and fines between BD300 and BD1,000.

Lesser breaches carry up to 15 days' imprisonment and fines from BD100 to BD300.

Fine

If an offence is repeated within one year, the fine is doubled.

Each fishing vessel must have a Bahraini Naukhatha (Ship Captain), the skipper and employer of record. Boats 18 to 21 feet long may carry up to three crew in addition to the naukhatha. Those 22 to 24 feet may carry four people, of whom three must be Bahraini.

Road and walkway upgrades underway in Al Dair and Samaheej

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Road and footpath works in Al Dair and Samaheej are in progress, with the remaining jobs due within two months, Muharraq Municipal Council member Fadhil Al Oud said.

He said the works sit within a wider plan to improve services across the constituency in line with residents' needs, with early focus on Al Dair and Samaheej.

Avenue 27 in Al Dair is being re-asphalted. It links Blocks 230 and 231 and serves several mosques and ma'tams, so it sees heavy daily use.

The scheme also adds a storm-water drainage point to reduce pooling in winter.

Block 232, described as relatively old, is receiving block paving for its internal walkways as part of neighbourhood upgrades. Movement and access

In Samaheej's Block 235, crews have repaved several walkways with blocks and laid



Fadhil Al Oud

new asphalt on selected streets to ease movement and improve access.

Some schemes are finished, Al Oud said, and the rest are scheduled to conclude within the next two months as part of one plan covering both areas.

He thanked the Undersecretary at the Ministry of Works, H.E. Shaikh Mishal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, for his follow-up, saying the programme shows the ministry's focus on serving residents and raising infrastructure standards across Bahrain.

Kerala Samajam set to organise 'Shravanam 2025' Onam Festival

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

Bahrain Keralyeeya Samajam (BKS), the mother organisation of Malayali expatriates in the Kingdom, has announced that its annual Onam celebrations, "Shravanam 2025," will be one of the largest and longest Onam festivals organised outside Kerala.

The announcement was made during a press conference by BKS President P.V. Radhakrishna Pillai, General Secretary Varghese Karakkal, and Festival Committee General Convener Varghese George, who highlighted the diverse range of cultural, artistic, and community programs planned for this year's edition.

'Pillonam'



BKS President P.V. Radhakrishna Pillai, General Secretary Varghese Karakkal, and Festival Committee General Convener Varghese George at the press conference

The festivities began with "Pillonam" (Children's Onam), an initiative designed to educate children about the historical and social significance of the festival.

From there, a packed calendar of daily events has been scheduled, drawing together music, dance, competitions, and traditional feasts.

On August 29, the "Ruchi Mela" food festival showcased Kerala's rich culinary heritage,

followed on September 1 by the official inauguration ceremony, "Kodiyettam."

Tug of war competition

A tug of war competition between expatriate organizations was staged on September 4, and the following day, playback singers Panthalam Balan, Ravishankar, and Pramila performed the songs of the late legendary playback singer P. Jayachandran,

accompanied by a commemorative speech by writer Ravi Menon.

September 6 featured folk dances from various Indian states, while September 7 hosted the "Onapudava" (traditional dress) competition.

Cultural programs organised by the BKS Entertainment Division took place on September 8, followed by the "Onappattu" (Onam songs) competition

a grand evening concert led by acclaimed singers K.S. Chithra, Madhu Balakrishnan, Nishad, and Anamika.

The following days continued with a mix of competitions and cultural showcases. September 13 featured Payasam and Thiruvathira contests, while September 14 held a traditional costume competition.

Folk music by the Aaravam Maram band was performed on September 15, followed by traditional games on September 16 and 17, and a kabaddi tournament on September 18.

Violin recital

September 19 brought a violin recital by maestro Ganga Sasidharan, with a cinematic dance competition staged the next day.

HIRING

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Bahrain-India relations



His Excellency Abdulla bin Adel, Minister of Industry and Commerce, received Smitha Jensen, Chairwoman of the Indian Ladies Association, and a number of board members. The Minister praised the association's role in strengthening Bahrain-India relations and supporting volunteer and community initiatives, highlighting women as key partners in development. The meeting also discussed the association's volunteer projects and efforts to enhance cultural and social cooperation between the two countries.