

Rest, Recharge, Deliver Safely

This initiative promotes safer working conditions through training, awareness and welfare facilities

● **Labour Minister praises private sector safety efforts.**

● **Keeta Bahrain reaffirms commitment to worker welfare.**

● **Project promotes workplace safety awareness.**

● **Rest stations help workers beat summer heat stress.**

Minister of Labour and Minister of Legal Affairs, His Excellency Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, inaugurated a dedicated training centre for delivery representatives and four permanent rest stations launched by Keeta Bahrain.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Keeta Bahrain General Manager Aiden Qiao.

The minister highlighted the importance of initiatives that strengthen occupational safety and health standards while



providing a safe and healthy working environment, particularly for employees engaged in field-based duties.

He praised the role of private sector companies in supporting national efforts to protect workers and improve workplace conditions.

The minister said that providing dedicated rest facilities for delivery workers, along with awareness and training programmes, represents a positive model for promoting a culture of prevention and compliance with occupational safety regulations.

The new facilities are expected to contribute to protecting workers, improving their well-being and supporting a more sustainable work environment.

The launch ceremony includ-



ed a presentation on the training centre's programmes, the services available at the permanent rest stations, and their role in enhancing safety measures and reducing exposure to heat stress, especially during the summer season.

Keeta Bahrain General Manager Aiden Qiao said the company remains committed to sup-

porting initiatives that improve delivery workers' safety through training programmes, awareness campaigns and the establishment of fully equipped rest stations with essential services.

He added that the initiative aims to create a safer and more supportive working environment for delivery personnel across Bahrain.

Nine Arrested in Bahrain Drug Busts

Police seized more than nine kilograms of illegal substances in operations across Bahrain



Ministry of Interior announced that the Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science arrested nine individuals in four separate drug-related cases.

The suspects, of different nationalities and aged between 22 and 68, were arrested on charges related to possessing and smuggling narcotic substances. Authorities stated that one operation was conducted in cooperation with Customs Af-

fairs as part of ongoing efforts to combat drug trafficking and protect society from narcotics.

During the operations, security personnel seized over 9 kilograms of narcotic substances, with an estimated street value exceeding BD684,000.

The Ministry of Interior reaffirmed that anti-drug teams continue their efforts to track criminal networks involved in the trafficking and distribution of illegal substances and bring offenders to justice.

300 Homes Anchor Muharraq Old Quarter Revamp



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Six old Muharraq neighbourhoods are 73pc through a major rebuild spanning about 300 homes, 72 public squares and nearly 100,000 trees.

Roads, car parks, lanes and power, water and sewerage networks are also being renewed under the first phase, which began in 2023.

A total of 247 properties were bought for the work, with every owner paid under agreed valuation rules, said Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary for Municipalities Affairs.

The scheme will guide later work across Muharraq while keeping its old façades, alleys and neighbourhood character.

Fatima Al Mannai, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, said crews were working in crowded areas where homes, schools and shops remained open. The 73pc rate showed the work was moving to plan, she said.

New rules will govern homes, shops, façades, trees, street furniture and public spaces. Future building work in the area will have to follow them.

The first phase includes about 12,000 square metres of green space. Parking and traffic plans aim to keep homes and local ser-



Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Director-general of heritage of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities



Fatima Al Mannai, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning

vices within a three or four-minute walk.

The old Casino Garden is also being rebuilt and is due to reopen when the first phase ends.

Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, director-general of heritage at the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, said close care had been given to façades, alleys, squares and shop signs so Muharraq did not lose its old look.

New push to regulate shisha cafés and construction noise

● **Municipalities and municipal councils seek a formal role in setting licensing requirements for shisha cafés**

● **Keep shisha cafés away from residential areas, schools, places of worship and community facilities.**

● **Committee reviewed complaints about building work during unsuitable hours**



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From where shisha cafés can open to when construction crews can work, the Muharraq Municipal Council is seeking a stronger voice in decisions it says directly affect residents' daily lives.

Meeting this week, the council's General Committee urged that municipalities and municipal councils be given a formal role in shaping the licensing requirements for shisha cafés, saying local authorities are best positioned to identify locations that protect neighbourhoods from potential health and social impacts.

The committee argued that shisha cafés should be kept

away from residential areas, schools, places of worship and community facilities, describing such separation as essential to preserving public health and improving quality of life.

While licensing rules for commercial activities are set by the relevant government authorities, members said elected municipal councils should be consulted before requirements are finalised because they are closest to community concerns and understand the needs of individual neighbourhoods.

The committee said greater municipal involvement would help strike a balance between encouraging investment and

Construction

The committee also addressed another issue frequently complained about by residents: construction work continuing during hours that disturb nearby households.

Members noted that there is currently no clear legal framework regulating construction working hours, leaving contractors and project owners to determine schedules, often to meet project deadlines.

To address the issue, the committee discussed introducing defined working hours for construction sites to reduce noise in residential areas while allowing flexibility for exceptional cases where work outside normal hours may be necessary. It said such regulations would help balance Bahrain's ongoing urban development with residents' right to a quieter and more comfortable living environment.

