

From Mina to Makkah, a smooth Hajj journey

Justice Minister Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda commends success of 1447 AH Hajj season

● **Bahrain's Hajj mission teams, healthcare workers, security personnel and tour operators were praised for their role in the season's success.**

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Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs



and Endowments and Chairman of the Supreme Committee for Hajj and Umrah Affairs, has hailed the success of the 1447 AH Hajj season, citing the smooth delivery of services and the coordinated efforts that enabled Bahraini pilgrims to perform their rituals with ease and comfort.

Al Maawda attributed the successful season to the continued care of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin

Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, which ensured comprehensive support for Bahraini pilgrims throughout their journey.

He also praised the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, for the extensive arrangements that facilitated a safe, organised and seamless Hajj experience for millions of

pilgrims.

The minister commended Bahrain's Hajj mission committees, headed by Shaikh Adnan Abdullah Al Qattan, for their dedicated efforts during the pilgrimage season. He highlighted the contributions of the security committee from the Ministry of Interior, the medical committee from the Ministry of Health, scout teams from the Ministry of Education and other service and support teams deployed across the holy sites.

Al Maawda noted that Saudi

Arabia's advanced crowd-management systems and modern technologies played a key role in ensuring the smooth movement of pilgrims and maintaining high standards of safety and organisation throughout the season.

He also lauded Bahraini Hajj tour operators for their cooperation and commitment to approved plans and guidelines, saying their efforts contributed significantly to the overall success of this year's pilgrimage.

New teacher hiring database moves forward

CSB objects, citing existing digital recruitment systems



● **Platform to track specialisations and staffing needs**

● **Committee approval despite CSB reservations**

● **Future staffing gaps to be forecast**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A proposal to create a dedicated teacher recruitment database has won the backing of Parliament's Services Committee, with supporters saying it will help Bahrain anticipate future staffing needs and build a ready pool of qualified educators.

The proposal, submitted by MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi, calls for the Ministry of Education to establish a digital platform that tracks teaching specialisations, measures supply and demand, and forecasts future recruitment requirements linked to school expansion and demographic changes.

The committee unanimously recommended the proposal's approval, saying it serves the public interest and supports efforts to modernise recruitment practices in the education sector. Supporters argue that teacher hiring should move

beyond filling vacancies as they arise and instead focus on maintaining a database of qualified candidates ready for future appointments.

According to the committee, the platform would streamline recruitment procedures, reduce processing times and cut administrative costs in line with Bahrain's digital transformation goals. It would also improve governance by making recruitment processes more transparent, traceable and open to scrutiny.

CSB differs

The Civil Service Bureau, however, noted that government recruitment is already governed by the Civil Service Law and related regulations, which provide a unified framework for appointments across public sector bodies. It said existing rules are designed to ensure fairness, equal opportunity and transparency in the hiring process.

The bureau pointed to several digital systems already in operation, including the Shwaghir

government vacancies platform and the electronic employment applications system available through Bahrain's national portal. These systems allow job-seekers to apply for vacancies online while enabling government entities to access approved candidate lists and CVs electronically.

It also highlighted the role of Mohammed Jaber Al Ansari College for Teachers in supplying the education sector with qualified Bahraini teachers through specialised academic and practical training programmes.

While reaffirming its support for digital transformation and the wider government digitisation strategy, the bureau said it continues to work with government entities to enhance services through technology and artificial intelligence within the framework of existing laws and regulations. The bureau added that its reply was preliminary, with the final government view to be sent in a memorandum once the proposal is formally referred by Parliament.

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Chinese automaker wins trademark dispute

● **Lawyers representing the Chinese automaker argued that the two trademarks create different visual and symbolic impressions.**

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Civil Court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by a global luxury car manufacturer against a Chinese automaker in a trademark dispute, ruling that consumers of high-end vehicles are unlikely to be confused by similarities between the two brands' logos.

The case centred on a challenge to a decision by the relevant government authority, which had rejected the luxury car maker's objection to the registration of the Chinese company's trademark.

In its ruling, the court said the key test in trademark disputes is whether an average consumer would likely be misled under normal buying conditions. It added

that the nature and value of a product play an important role in determining how carefully consumers assess brands before making a purchase.

Lawyers representing the Chinese automaker argued that the two trademarks create different visual and symbolic impressions. They said part of the disputed logo consists of a common geometric shape that cannot be exclusively claimed by any one company, and that the Chinese firm's logo also contains distinctive design elements that set it apart.

The defence further pointed to previous court rulings and international trademark registrations that have allowed both trademarks to coexist.

After reviewing the GCC Trademark Law, the court noted that trademark imitation should be judged on the overall similarity of the main elements of a mark rather than on minor details.

The court concluded that buyers of luxury vehicles generally exercise a high degree of care and attention because of the significant value of their purchases, making confusion between the two trademarks unlikely.

Rare Blue Micro Moon to shine over Bahrain

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Skywatchers in Bahrain will have a chance to witness a relatively rare celestial event tomorrow as a "Blue Micro Moon" rises over the Kingdom's skies, combining two unusual lunar phenomena in a single full moon.

Astronomer Mohammed Redha Al Asfoor said the full moon of Dhu Al-Hijjah 1447



Astronomer Mohammed Redha Al Asfoor.

AH will coincide with the moon reaching its apogee — the farthest point in its orbit from Earth. At a distance of about 406,000 kilometres, the moon will appear slightly smaller than a typical full moon, a phenomenon known as a "MicroMoon".

Al Asfoor noted that the combination of a Blue Moon and a MicroMoon is relatively uncommon. The event will

also mark the second full moon of May, which is why it is referred to as a "Blue Moon". Despite its name, the moon will not actually appear blue in colour.

The moon will reach full illumination at 11:45am local time while below the horizon. It is expected to rise over Bahrain at 6:46pm after sunset and remain visible until 5:07am the following morning.

