

Sewage Project 70% Done

Minister inspects key infrastructure project serving two major residential blocks

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Minister of Works, Engineer Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, made a hands-on field visit to one of the kingdom's most significant ongoing infrastructure projects – the new sewage network being built across Block 1016 in the Al Lawzi area and Block 1203 in Hamad City. He was joined by the Ministry's Undersecretary, Engineer Sheikh Mashal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary for Sanitary Works Engineer Fathi Abdullah Al Fare', and a team of ministry engineers.

The project is designed to connect 968 properties across the two residential blocks to a modern sewage network for the first time. Work involves extensive trench excavation and horizontal drilling to lay the infrastructure without disrupting the surrounding community.

The scale is impressive. The project includes approximately 15 kilometres of main sewage lines with diameters ranging from 200mm to 1,000mm, plus around 10 kilometres of secondary branch lines at 150mm diameter. It also involves constructing 754 inspection chambers and a brand-new pumping station with a capacity of 650 litres per second – ensuring the network can handle current and future demand.



70% Complete

During his visit, Minister Al Hawaj received a detailed briefing on progress to date; work currently stands at 70% completion. He stressed the importance of maintaining momentum to meet the approved timeline, noting that the project plays a key role

in strengthening the sustainability and efficiency of the sewage system across the region.

The minister reaffirmed that this project falls within the Ministry's broader strategic plan to upgrade infrastructure kingdom-wide, expand access to essential sanitation services, and

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- 968 properties will benefit from the new sewage network project.
- The pumping station will handle 650 litres of wastewater per second.
- Bahrain continues replacing septic tanks with modern sewage systems.
- Around 25km of pipelines are being laid—nearly the distance from Manama to the Saudi Causeway.

keep pace with urban growth across Bahrain's governorates – all in line with the kingdom's sustainable development goals.

Bahrain's Tender Board awarded the project to Abdul Hadi Al Afoo Contracting Company, with Stantec Khanji appointed as the supervising consultant.

Bahraini Folk Music Night



The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities organised a traditional musical evening titled "A Night with Bahraini Art" at the Cultural Hall, bringing together heritage, music and festive celebrations during Eid Al Adha.



The event featured performances by the Southern Al Badi' House Band, which presented a collection of well-known Bahraini folk songs in an atmosphere rich with authentic cultural traditions and artistic expression.

The evening attracted a large audience, with attendees expressing their joy at hearing some of Bahrain's most cherished traditional songs revived on stage. The performances

showcased various authentic rhythms and melodies that reflected the Kingdom's maritime history as well as its social and cultural heritage.

Organisers said the event was part of efforts to preserve Bahrain's artistic legacy and introduce younger generations to the country's traditional musical identity during one of the year's most celebrated occasions.

Jobs Back, Not Cash

Bahrain proposes courts order job reinstatement, not just compensation

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Bahrain's Parliament Services Committee is reviewing a proposed amendment to the Private Sector Labour Law that would give courts the authority to order the reinstatement of unfairly dismissed workers—not just award them financial compensation.

The proposal seeks to amend Article 104(b) of Labour Law No. 36 of 2012, replacing the current text with a new provision stating that "the court shall, upon the request of the dismissed worker, order his reinstatement if it is established that his dismissal was arbitrary."

What the Law Currently Says

Under existing legislation, workers who prove unfair dismissal are entitled to financial compensation. While that provides some relief, the proposal's explanatory memorandum argues it is not enough.

Monetary settlements, the document states, often fail to deter employers who make arbitrary dismissal decisions. More critically, financial payouts do not fully address the professional, personal, and social damage a worker suffers after losing their source of income.

The Real Cost of Losing a Job

The proposal paints a clear picture of what dismissal really means for ordinary workers. Many employees carry ongoing financial commitments – bank loans, monthly household expenses, school fees, and family



Ahmed Abdulwahed Qarata
Second Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives

obligations. For the sole breadwinner of a family, a sudden job loss can quickly spiral into a crisis.

The memorandum warns that an abrupt loss of income can lead to mounting debt, legal action from creditors, and serious damage to family stability – alongside the psychological and social toll of unemployment. In this context, reinstatement is not simply symbolic. It is a practical solution that restores financial balance and protects families from deeper long-term consequences.

A Constitutional Right

The proposal grounds its argument firmly in the Bahraini Constitution, which guarantees the state's commitment to providing employment opportunities for citizens under fair conditions. It also reaffirms the right of Members of Parliament to table legislative proposals.

The core argument is direct: job security is a fundamental right that ensures social and financial stability. Labour rights,

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“Under current law, an employer can fire a worker unfairly and simply pay a financial penalty—with no obligation to return the job. This amendment would change that.”

the memorandum asserts, are not merely financial entitlements – they are substantive rights that may require the continuation of the employment relationship when an employer's wrongdoing is proven.

The proposal now sits with the Services Committee for review and deliberation. If approved and passed into law, it would mark a significant shift in how Bahrain handles workplace disputes – moving from a system that primarily compensates dismissed workers to one that can actively reverse an unjust dismissal entirely.

Domestic Violence Cases Drop

Complaints fell 49% in 2025 compared to the previous year

Official data shows a gradual decline since 2022

Authorities credit prevention, reconciliation, and legal reforms

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Bahrain's approach to domestic violence has evolved in recent years, moving beyond a narrow focus on complaints, investigations, and punishment toward a broader framework centered on prevention, early intervention, reconciliation, and strengthening legal and social awareness within families and society.

Recent statistics issued by the Public Prosecution show a significant decline in domestic violence complaints in 2025. Cases dropped from 2,770 in 2024 to 1,412 in 2025, marking a sharp decrease of 49 percent—one of the most notable trends recorded in recent years.

This downward trajectory follows a gradual pattern over the past four years, with complaints falling from 3,017 in 2022 to 2,807 in 2023, then 2,770 in 2024, before reaching the steepest decline in 2025.

Legal perspectives attribute this trend to improved legislation, the effectiveness of protection orders, family reconciliation mechanisms, and preventive justice programmes. Educational perspectives also highlight the role of schools in raising aware-



ness among students about their rights and available protection channels.

The issue is increasingly seen not as a closed family matter, but as a broader social concern involving shared responsibilities between legal institutions, families, schools, and protection agencies.

Officials and experts emphasize that family reconciliation is not merely a procedural step to close cases, but a key tool in resolving disputes early and rebuilding trust within families, provided safeguards are in place to protect victims.

Initiatives such as the "Reaya" programme, family mediation and reconciliation offices, and alternative sentencing measures reflect a shift in justice philosophy—from responding to harm after it occurs to addressing underlying causes and reducing recurrence.

Data from the Family and Child Prosecution further highlights the scope of the issue, including 15 protection orders issued, as well as indicators related to juvenile offenders, children at risk, and child victims. The age group between 7 and 15 years emerged as the most affected among child victims.

These figures reinforce the

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES IN BAHRAIN

2022: 3,017 cases

2023: 2,807 cases

2024: 2,770 cases

2025: 1,412 cases

link between family protection and child protection, underscoring that early intervention within homes, schools, and communities remains essential to building a safer and more stable environment.

The report opens a broader discussion on whether the sharp decline in domestic violence complaints reflects the success of legislation, reconciliation efforts, and awareness campaigns—or whether further work is needed to ensure the trend represents a sustained improvement in family safety rather than a temporary statistical shift.