

Food services sought for government hospitals



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Five catering companies are vying for a two-year contract to supply food services to all government hospitals in Bahrain, the Tender Board revealed yesterday.

The hospitals require bidders to offer a variety of menus for patients.

They also require bidders to keep up the daily transport of food to and within the hospital premises, operating from 7am to 7pm each day.

The bids run the gamut from BD3,499,870.800 by Food City to BD7,384,440.000 by Jalil Catering.

The selected supplier(s) will service the following sites: Salmaniya Medical Complex, Psychiatric Hospital, Jidhafs Maternity Hospital, Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Community Medical Center, Muharraq Geriatric Hospital, Multiple Sclerosis Center, and Abdulrahman Kanoo Kidney Dialysis Center.

Road to safety

Private centres start to conduct inspections for vehicles up to 10 years old

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A new regulation requires that vehicles up to 10 years old – those built between 2015 and 2024 – be inspected at licensed private testing centres.

This policy, introduced by the General Directorate of Traffic at the Ministry of Interior, took effect yesterday.

The policy applies to all private vehicles, motorbikes, and passenger transport vehicles weighing up to 3,000kg. Both new and used vehicles can be inspected at these approved centres.

The inspection fee at private centres is set at BD11, BD6 more than the fee at traffic centres.

To facilitate the process for citizens, the General Directorate of Traffic is working with car companies to set up technical service centres.

Currently, there are about eight private inspection centres across the kingdom, with more expected to open soon.

Plan

The General Directorate of Traffic plans to move to the second phase of outsourcing inspections to private centres



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starting in July 2025.

This phase will see licensed private centres handling inspections for all light vehicles and motorbikes.

By 1 July 2025, the third phase will extend this service to include all vehicle types, such as heavy vehicles and public transport.

Lawmakers push for enforcement of 'Bahraini Skipper' Law



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Five members of the Strategic Thinking Bloc in the parliament have submitted a proposal urging the government to accelerate the implementation of the "Bahraini Skipper" (Al Naukhada) law and launch training programmes to ensure its proper execution.

The proposal, signed by MPS Khalid Buanq, Ahmed Al Saloum, Basma Mubarak, Mariam Al Thaen, and Abdullah Al Rumaihi, aims to create more opportunities for citizens in a field where they face no competition.

The memorandum accompanying the proposal highlights that fishing is a vital source of income for many Bahraini families.

The lawmakers emphasise that the implementation of the "Bahraini Skipper" law will contribute to the preservation and protection of marine resources and reduce harmful environmental practices.

Training programmes

Moreover, the proposal calls for the launch of training programmes alongside the law's implementation to ensure its execution according to best practices.

The proposal stresses the importance of the law, noting that it mandates the presence of a Bahraini skipper on board commercial fishing vessels.

It argues that the law will help protect marine resources, as Bahraini skippers are more likely to prioritise their pres-



The implementation of the "Bahraini Skipper" law will contribute to the preservation and protection of marine resources and reduce harmful environmental practices. It mandates the presence of a Bahraini skipper on board commercial fishing vessels.

ervation.

The proposal further states that the law will create job opportunities for Bahraini citizens in a field where they face no competition, providing a source of income for many families reliant on the sea.

Cooperation

The proposal stresses the importance of cooperation between the legislative and executive branches in matters that benefit the nation and its citizens, particularly in protecting marine resources.

It emphasises the need for practical implementation of laws to ensure their effectiveness.

The proposal comes as the ban on shrimp fishing ended yesterday.

Fire safety awareness campaign launched in Muharraq

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The Muharraq Municipal Council has launched a comprehensive fire safety awareness campaign in collaboration with the Civil Defence Directorate of the Ministry of Interior, the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate, the Electricity and Water Authority, and the Muharraq Municipality.

This initiative aims to raise awareness about fire prevention and proper response procedures in case of a fire.

The campaign comes in response to the recent increase in fires in markets and commercial establishments, particularly with the onset of summer and rising temperatures.

During the inspections, officials have been checking electrical connections in shops and



Officials check a fire extinguisher

public markets, providing essential guidance to employees, and emphasising the commitment of all involved parties to collaborate and offer necessary instructions to safeguard lives and property.

The campaign has targeted a diverse range of establishments, including a central public market, car repair workshops, furniture manufacturing workshops, gas sales outlets, restaurants, bakeries, and various retail shops.

The campaign is set to continue throughout all areas of the Muharraq Governorate, ensuring that the public, particularly shop and building owners, are well-informed about fire safety precautions.

This collaborative effort highlights the collective commitment to prioritise public safety.

Infrastructure project on track

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The ongoing infrastructure development in the new Jid Al-Haj area forms part of a broader initiative along the Al Nakheel Highway, directed by the Ministry of Works.

The design and construction of the sewage and rainwater drainage networks, along with street paving, were awarded to Al-Door Excavation & Building Contracting for BD1,050,000.

This includes a 1,278-metre sewage network with 31 main inspection chambers, a 1,750-metre branch line with 183 branch inspection chambers, a rainwater drainage network, street paving, and the

installation of street lighting poles.

A recent assembly reviewed the project's progress.

Dr Shubar Al-Wadaei, Chairman of the North Area Municipal Council, detailed a phased strategy for the project's execution.

Following the municipal elections at the end of 2018, the initial steps involved consultations with local residents to set strategic directions.

This collaborative effort, backed by the Ministry of Works and the executive body, addressed issues such as building violations and public cleanliness.

The Ministry's role was cru-

cial, particularly the Roads Projects and Maintenance Directorate, in assessing roads, setting levels, and replacing unsuitable sandy layers with proper materials to prepare for the infrastructure work.

Dr Al-Wadaei noted that the meeting also dealt with technical challenges concerning the sewage and rainwater drainage networks.

Problems emerged due to some individuals not adhering to approved road levels during house construction, complicating the development of infrastructure, especially the drainage networks, which require precise specifications and affect the project's timeline.

Fil Am Bahrain supports distressed Filipinos

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The Filipino American Association of Bahrain (Fil Am Bahrain) organised a successful gift-giving activity and dental mission for 16 distressed overseas Filipinos and four young children at the Philippine Embassy.

Members and officers of Fil Am Bahrain, under the leadership of its president Orlando O. Fontanilla, gathered at the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) to extend assistance and support to Filipinos seeking refuge at the embassy.

The Fil Am charitable effort for distressed Filipino workers was made possible through the



Fil Am members and teams of dedicated volunteers worked tirelessly to assist and support individuals in need.

generous contributions of its members, as well as the support of local sponsors and partners who shared a commitment to community service.

This collaborative work underscored the strength and unity of the Filipino community in Bahrain, demonstrating the power of collective action in making a positive difference. The support was provided by FILAMCOM Isa Air Base, Triskelion International Kingdom of Bahrain, Lolo's Kitchen and nurses from Royal Bahrain Hospital. Freelance photographers Sajid Rafiq Butt and Rafiq Adnan volunteered their services during the activity.