

Healthy innovation

Bahrain's primary healthcare centers to feature cafeterias, government hospitals seek catering services

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

In a move to enhance services at healthcare facilities, Bahrain's primary healthcare centres are set to introduce cafeterias offering light meals in 13 centres across the Kingdom's four governorates.

The Tender Board has issued a tender for the leasing of these 13 cafeterias, marking a continuation of the trend of opening cafeterias and restaurants within primary healthcare centres and government hospitals in the past two years.

The selected centers include: Al Muharraq, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, Isa Town, Ahmed Bin Ali Kanoo, Sitra, Mohammed Jassim Kanoo, Hamad Town, Kuwait, Ali, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Yousuf Ab-

dul Rahman Engineer, Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa, and Khalifa Town.

Contract duration

The tender, as advertised on the Tender Board's website, specifies a 48-month contract duration. Two companies have already submitted bids for the project.

In a related development, the Government Hospitals are seeking bids from catering companies to provide food services across all government hospitals.

The tender encompasses the preparation of diverse meal options for patients, along with food delivery within the hospitals.

Hospital locations

The catering services are required daily, operating between



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7 am and 7 pm. The selected provider(s) will cater to one or more of the following hospital locations:

Location (A): Salmaniya Medical Complex Location (B): Psychiatric Hospital, Jidhafs Maternity Hospital (JMH), and Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo Community Medical Centre (EKK) Location (C): Muharraq Geriatric Hospital (MGH), Multiple Sclerosis Center (MSC), and Abdul Rahman Kanoo Kidney Dialysis Centre (ARK)

Five companies have submitted bids as of yesterday, with the highest bid reaching BD7.384 million from Jalil Catering. Other bids include Food City W.L.L. at BD3.499 million, Fine Foods Catering at BD5.230 million, Union of Suppliers and Contractors at BD4.125 million, and Mohammed Jalal Catering at BD4.536.

Baking class for Filipinos: A taste of home



Trainer and participants at the event

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The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), in partnership with the women's organization, Pinay Ikaw Na (PIN), has launched an innovative baking skills training program designed to equip Filipinos with enhanced culinary abilities held at the Philippine Embassy Manama.

According to Irma Abril-Morota of PIN Registration Committee, a total of 57 Filipinos, primarily domestic helpers, have registered for the training program that began on August 9, 2024, and will take place over two Fridays.

Additionally, other skilled workers, including waitresses and receptionists, as well as professionals such as accountants, nurses and engineer have also enrolled.

Participants have been delighted to learn innovative baking techniques creating the beloved classics such as monay and pandesal, which are staples in Filipino households.

Workshops equipped them with practical skills that have encouraged creativity, allowing attendees to experiment with different bread fillings such as cinnamon, cheese and chocolate with an expert instructor from IV CakeStudio, Ivy Diana Bello Ancheta, guiding them.

Ancheta and her group have been sharing the joy of baking with others offering a variety of baking classes designed for all skill levels.

Government proposes draft law to ban 'healthy' smoking alternatives

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The so-called "healthy" alternatives to regular tobacco products are proving to be just as harmful as traditional cigarettes.

What's more, they're becoming a concern for our environment. In response, new regulations are being shaped by lawmakers.

A draft law has been formulated by the government, aiming to ban the import of both herbal and non-herbal smoking substitutes.

According to the government, the purpose of this draft is to curb the use of these alternatives and address the health and

environmental risks they pose within the Kingdom.

The proposed law includes penalties for those who fall foul of its terms, with imprisonment of up to one year and fines ranging from one thousand to BD100,000.

Courts could also have the power to shut down offending establishments for up to three months or seize the materials involved.

Violation

Also, law seeks to prevent companies that manufacture, import, or distribute tobacco products from sponsoring sporting events, competitions, or concerts. Any violation could result



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in fines of up to BD3,000.

Further, the draft law introduces stricter penalties for displaying tobacco products in food stores in a way that makes them easily accessible, with fines set at BD3,000.

The penalty for growing tobacco has been bumped up to BD5,000, and importing or using tobacco vending machines in the Bahrain could now land violators with similar fines.

Lastly, the draft law proposes a ban on importing tobacco products meant for chewing, sucking, or any other unauthorised form, with those who flout the law facing fines of up to BD5,000.

Former Bahraini MP's family retains citizenship despite husband's deprivation

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A well-informed source has confirmed to our sister newspaper Alayam that the wife and children of a former Bahraini MP Mohammed Al Hussaini, who had his citizenship revoked under legal provisions, retain their Bahraini citizenship through their mother.

The source emphasised the importance of verifying information from official sources before dissemination.

This development comes amidst ongoing discussions regarding the former MP's family's citizenship.

While the former MP's citizenship was revoked, his family, being Bahraini nationals through their mother, are not affected by the legal action taken against him.

It is important to note that Mohammed Al Hussaini's membership in the parliament has been revoked recently due to holding dual citizenship when he submitted his candidacy.

Legacy of music and innovation

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Abdullah Ahmed Al-Qannas, renowned as "Abdullah Guitar," is a pioneering Bahraini artist celebrated for his exceptional skills in both singing and guitar playing.

His name resonates across the music world, both within Bahrain and internationally.

Al-Qannas shared insights into his inspiring career and cheerful personality, reflecting on the evolution of music in Bahrain since the 1950s.

"I am proud to be the first guitarist in Bahrain," Al-Qannas remarked. "When I started, the guitar was unheard of here."

His early experiences included performing at private events and the old Bahrain Airport restaurant with a band he founded.

"Music has been a lifelong passion," he explained. "I began with the cello and double bass before falling in love with the guitar."

His self-taught journey transformed him into a leading guitarist in Bahrain and the Gulf.



Al-Qannas

Salman City workers benefit from ICRF summer program



Bottled drinks provide relief for workers

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The Sixth event of ICRF Thirst Quenchers 2024 was held yesterday at a worksite located in Salman City.

The Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) Thirst-Quenchers 2024 team continue its annual summer awareness program,

aligning with the Ministry of Labour's initiative to ensure a safe working environment during the sweltering months of July and August.

The primary goal of this program is to promote awareness about maintaining a healthy and safe summer.

During July and August, ICRF distributes bottled water, La-

ban, and fruits to workers at their worksites, targeting those most affected by the intense summer heat.

Approximately 150 workers were given water bottles, juice, oranges, apples and bananas.

As in previous years, the Bohra community and generous volunteers have shown strong support for this project.