

Cabinet supports strategy to boost infrastructure development

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The Cabinet yesterday discussed and approved a memorandum by the Minister of Housing and Urban Planning regarding the continued implementation of the strategy for infrastructural development and social services in the new housing projects.

Chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the weekly Cabinet meeting held at Gu-



HRH Prince Salman chairs the Cabinet meeting yesterday

daibiya Palace also approved a memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on develop-

ments regarding the executive mechanisms of the decree-law on the Electronic Transferable Records Law.

It also approved a memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on the government's re-

sponse to four proposals submitted by the Council of Representatives.

The Cabinet reviewed a memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding the unified framework of cooperation between the Ministry of Electricity and Water Affairs and government agencies on technical support in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Cabinet also reviewed a memorandum by the Minister of Cabinet Affairs regarding the implementation of the Govern-

ment Priority Framework 3.0.

Each minister was directed to develop an executive plan for the remaining 23 projects within the framework, which aim to achieve financial sustainability and development.

The Cabinet took note of ministerial reports regarding foreign participation of the Ministers and the visits of foreign delegations to the Kingdom of Bahrain in October 2022, as well as the first Bahrain International Medical Conference for AIDS, and participation in the 52nd session of the Arab Information Ministers' Council, held in Egypt.

Kingdom's 'eco-friendly' move to promote plastic alternatives

Initiative aims to protect environmental balance by curbing the spread of plastic waste

● **Commerce Ministry calls on everyone to cooperate in protecting environmental systems**

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

The governmental agencies are in their best efforts to promote plastic alternatives as part of a bid to implement pro-environment measures, according to a senior government official.

Shaikh Hamad bin Salman Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, said a comprehensive study is ongoing regarding the introduction of alternative products to plastic bags in the longer run.

The official's comment comes in light of the Kingdom banning single-use plastic bags having thickness of less than 35 microns since September 18.

The ministry's assistance aims to protect and preserve the environment in order to achieve Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030

“This move would create more awareness and responsibility around saving our environment with the enforcement of the law - and with all our cooperation, we can definitely build a safe and sustainable environment for all living creatures.”

- SHAIKH HAMAD BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA, ASSISTANT UNDERSECRETARY WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

goals of protecting natural spaces and reducing pollution. This can be accomplished by reducing the spread of plastic waste, which also endangers wildlife.

“The ministry had conducted a comprehensive study to see the status of plastic bags in factories and the main point of sale,” Shaikh Hamad said.

“According to the Assistant Undersecretary for Local and Foreign Trade, market surveys



The Kingdom is in its best efforts to curb the spread of plastic wastes

revealed that all local factories intend to manufacture multi-use plastic bags thicker than 35 microns.

“The survey also revealed that 86 per cent of those local factories will continue to produce plastic products that are exempt from the new ban on single-use plastic bags.

“This move would create more awareness and responsibility around saving our environment with the enforcement of the law - and with all our cooperation, we can definitely build a safe and sustainable environment for all living creatures.

“Various measures are being implemented with the support

of officials in order to achieve a safe and secure life for citizens while also assuring the availability of technical capabilities to manufacture multi-use of 35 microns or more,” Shaikh Hamad added.

He also emphasised that the ministry will continue to take steps to protect environmental systems, emphasising the importance of everyone's cooperation in moving forward with these efforts.

The officials noted that several neighbouring and developed countries have applied similar regulations to limit the spread of plastic bags, in hope of curbing litter and minimising

greenhouse emissions caused by plastic bag productions.

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism (MOICT) earlier issued an order to ban selling, manufacturing, circulating and importing single-use plastic bags, which are less than 35 microns in thickness.

Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani said that the decision aims to support environmental protection initiatives and limit the spread of plastic waste.

He highlighted that the ban is in line with the government's plans of securing an environment that supports sustainability and reduces pollution.

The ban will exclude single-use plastic bags that are more than 35 microns in thickness, single-use plastic bags that are used for medical purposes and bags that are used for exports, he said.

Al Zayani said that the MOICT held stakeholder engagement sessions especially with the private sector through the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The minister noted that several neighbouring and developed



The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and Tourism (MOICT) has issued an order to ban selling, manufacturing, circulating and importing single-use plastic bags, which are less than 35 microns in thickness.

countries have applied similar regulations to limit the spread of plastic waste, which poses a great danger to the environment and wildlife.

He stressed that the ministry will continue to take measures that contribute to environmental systems protection, calling on the need for everyone's cooperation to move forward in enforcing these efforts to preserve environmental safety.

Boost for tourism



Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi met with the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization, Zurab Pololikashvili, on the sidelines of her participation in the “World Tourism Day” events being held in Bali, Indonesia. During the meeting, Al Sairafi highlighted the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to strengthen cooperation with the UNWTO. She affirmed the Kingdom's growing contribution to global initiatives aimed at accelerating the recovery of the tourism sector following the COVID-19 pandemic. They also agreed to provide Bahrainis in the tourism industry with vocational training programmes at the UNWTO's regional and head offices.

COURT STORIES

Three Asian men jailed for peddling drugs

● **Court upholds 10-year prison sentence upheld**

● **Fined BD5,000 each followed by deportation**

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The Supreme Court of Appeal upheld a 10-year prison sentence for three Asians who were convicted of procuring and peddling drugs, fining each BD5,000 followed by deportation at the end of the sentence.

Security investigations had detected the first defendant's pos-

session of drugs with intent to sell.

An undercover agent contacted the defendant to purchase cannabis for BD100. A meeting was agreed upon in the Salmabad area where the first defendant's friend would bring the drugs.

Under police observation, the drug exchange took place.

The second defendant withdrew to a car where the first defendant was seated, and the two were immediately arrested and found in possession of the sale money as well as a bag containing 30 methamphetamine tablets. The second defendant delivered drugs for the former in return for a commission of the sale percentage.

Per search warrant, the se-

curity force entered the first defendant's apartment.

The third defendant who supplied the drugs was found; moreover, three sensitive scales, five bongs and other tools used in the abuse and sale of drugs were identified, and approximately 50 grams of various drug substances.

The first and third defendants confessed their involvement in the procurement and promotion of drugs while the third defendant carried out delivery to customers.

The three also got 10-year jail term and BD5,000 fine each. The third defendant was fined an additional BD100 for possession of pornographic material in his phone.

Woman arrested for fraud

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The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic Security's Anti-Economic Crimes Police has arrested a woman suspected of fraud.

She cheated some citizens through social media by making them believe that she could import international branded products for low prices compared to the prices in the local market.

She used to post the products on social media, pretending to be a client for international

companies and shops to win their victims' trust and give her money to import the products.

She delivered the branded products to some of her customers to attract more victims. Eventually, she didn't hand over the products or the money.

An investigation into the case led to her arrest, while legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

The directorate called upon citizens and residents to report such cases to the hotline 992.