

## Stage set for HRH Princess Sabeeka global award

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The United Nations Women, in partnership and cooperation with the Kingdom of Bahrain through the Supreme Council for Women, is organising a virtual event tomorrow to announce the start of preparation for the second edition of the Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women Empowerment.

It will also open the door for

submission of applications and nominations for the award that aims to demonstrate the impact of the efforts and contributions of governments, companies, civil society organisations and individuals in empowering women and girls around the world.

The event will be held within the programme of the "Generation Equality" forum jointly hosted by France and Mexico, and under the general supervision of the United Nations

Women. The award honours the efforts made in the areas of women's empowerment across four categories: public and private sectors, civil society organisations and individuals.

Those interested in participating in the award will be able to obtain all the necessary details through the "updated" website of the award [www.womenglobalaward.org](http://www.womenglobalaward.org), starting on Thursday, July 1, 2021.

This global award comes

within the framework of Bahrain's endeavour, in cooperation with the international community represented by UN Women, to contribute to demonstrating the sustainable progress achieved in the field to ensure competitiveness and fair participation between sexes, disseminate the best effective methodologies and practices to enhance the status of women at the global level, and to contribute in highlighting the impor-

ance and feasibility of achieving sustainable development goals that are directly and indirectly related to the empowerment of women.

The main thrusts of the award, whose first session was launched in 2018, revolve around encouraging and appreciating national efforts in all countries of the world aimed at empowering women and creating a global platform for public appreciation of the achievements.



HRH Princess Sabeeka

## 1,500 'dangerous' toys withdrawn from market

High concentrations of 'antimony' pose risk to children's health, reports suggest

● Chemical elements exceed permissible limit

● Test reports received from GCC Health Council

● Ministry examining toys being sold in shops

● Bahrain to implement safety requirements



Some toys may contain high levels of harmful substances (images used for illustrative purposes only)

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Nearly 1,500 toys which pose a "danger" to children's health have been taken off the market in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Following field survey in shops conducted by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, it was found out that the toys contain materials that are potentially harmful to children's health and safety.

Shaikh Hamad bin Salman Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary for Domestic and Foreign Trade at the Ministry, said that the Inspection and Metrology Department had received test reports for these products from the Health Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

states.

Inspection teams have discovered high concentrations of hazardous chemical elements, particularly antimony, in plastic toys that exceed the permissible limit.

Exposure to high levels of this substance for a long time may cause damage, including irritation and sensitivity to the eyes and the surrounding area, as well as irritation in the lungs.

Shaikh Hamad revealed that the Inspection and Measurements Department carried out a field survey on shops that sell kid products.

Around 1,500 children's makeup sets were withdrawn because they failed to meet the international health and safety guidelines.

Accordingly, the department examined and tested these products to verify their level of safety, and to ensure that they did not contain any chronically toxic substances that would harm the children's health.

The Ministry is stepping up its campaign and field surveys to examine toys being sold by shops in the Kingdom to ensure that they comply with the approved technical regulations and do not harm the users.

Shaikh Hamad said the shop owners were asked to adhere strictly to the regulations in importing toys by requesting the manufacturer to comply with the safety standards and requirements of the Gulf Technical Regulation for Children's Toys.

Compliance with the regulations means toys are safe for children, he added.

Shop owners were also reminded that installing the Gulf tracking code on toys and obtaining a Gulf model inspection certificate are among the most important requirements that prove the manufacturer's commitment to the regulations, which guarantee the safety and security of toys imported into the local markets.

Shaikh Hamad made it clear that the Inspection and Measurements Department will communicate with owners of the shops from which the products were withdrawn for the purpose of examination and testing.



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Antimony, an obscure metal, is widely used in consumer products. It also turns up in baby bibs, children's shoes and clothes, and toys and games. Chemical compounds based on antimony are used as pigments - one of them, antimony trioxide, is also used as a flame retardant in textiles and plastics.

## Isa Town road development project completed

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The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning has completed the development of Road 1218 in Block 812 in Isa Town, between Doha Street in the east and Amman Street in the west, which is located within the second district of the Southern Governorate.

This project comes within the Ministry's infrastructure development programme to improve



The road is now well-paved and suitable for travel

services provided to citizens and residents and maintain the efficiency of the road network.

The project aims to reduce

traffic congestion on Street 77 (Ajwad Al Jabri), as it is used as an alternative and main entrance to the comprehensive

social services complex in Isa Town.

Works on the Road 1218 project included the construction of a rainwater drainage network and brick sidewalks to provide the largest number of car parking spaces, and the paving of the road with a new asphalt layer. It provides all traffic safety requirements such as signs and ground lines.

The project was implemented by the contractor, Abdul Hadi Al Afwa Company LLC.

## eGovernment mobile application launched



The agreement-signing ceremony

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The Information & eGovernment Authority (IGA) signed a partnership agreement with CrediMax to launch the eGovernment Mobile application which will include a range of selected government electronic services with advanced features.

The signing of the agreement was attended by IGA Chief Executive Mohammed Ali AlQaed, CrediMax CEO Ahmed A Seyadi, IGA Deputy CEO, Electronic Transformation Dr Zakareya Ahmed AlKhajah, Ali Al Mishaal, Head of Digital Business and Innovation at CrediMax, in addition to other IGA officials.

The development of this new mobile application comes within the framework of IGA's keenness to meet the request of citizens and residents to provide a unified application that includes a range of government electronic payment services, especially primary services that are used frequently.

The application is expected to have the highest stand-

ards of safety measures in place to protect the personal data of users.

The Authority indicated that the expected eGovernment mobile application will include a set of innovative features, such as personalisation of services to make government interaction more personal and customised.

The app will provide users with an enhanced overall experience that is tailored to enable them to store and use their personal information and documentations and create a list of their favourite services. It will also offer a speedy and unified payment service for government transactions along with providing the feature of displaying the history of payments done across all eGovernment channels.

The application will include the ability to send government notifications to users about their various transactions, provide an official digital document portfolio, and appointment booking services. Users can access the application and benefit from its various electronic services by logging in using their eKey credentials.

## Man sentenced to five years in jail for assault

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A man who attacked a fellow Bahraini after he tried to protect his family was sentenced to five years in prison.

The victim reportedly suffered a 5% disability after he was attacked by the accused at a local park.

According to court files, the victim was with his wife and two children at the local park, and during their stay, one of his kids went to play with a cat. She was verbally assaulted by the defendant for no reason, prompting her mother to intervene, and she was also verbally attacked.

"When I saw the man

swearing at my wife and my child, I intercepted him. I asked him to stop swearing at them and talk to me. However, he punched my face and pushed me to the ground before he got over my body. He started hurling punches to my face," the victim told prosecutors.

The attack broke the victim's nose, which was considered a 5% permanent disability by a medical report, while he also survived several injuries.

Ironically, the defendant told the court that he was the one who was assaulted because he tried to stop the kid from inhumanely treating the cat.