

# 'A source of pride'

HRH the Premier pays tribute to medical, nursing professionals as they preserve Bahrain's health security

● HRH the Prime Minister issues directives to study suitable mechanisms to reward those in medical field for their dedication and commitment

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His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa paid tribute yesterday to medical and nursing professionals, as well as volunteers in the Kingdom, for their keenness to answer the call of duty and be in the frontline of preserving Bahrain's health security.

HRH the Premier was speaking as he received, at his palace in Riffa, Supreme Council for Health (SCH) president and National Taskforce for Combatting Coronavirus (COVID-19) chairman Lieutenant-General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

HRH the Premier said that Bahrain boasts distinguished national medical professionals who are a source of pride for everyone, and they deserve thanks and appreciation.

He noted that Bahrain is reaping the fruits of its efforts to develop its human resources in the educational and health fields, so as to be effective elements in building, developing and protecting the nation.

HRH the Prime Minister issued directives to study a suitable mechanism to appreciate and reward them for their dedication and commitment to the noble human values of medicine and medical professions.

HRH the Premier also directed to follow up on and provide all the needs of the medical and nursing professionals so as to be able to carry out their duties



HRH the Prime Minister during his meeting

## HRH the Prime Minister orders Health Ministry to intensify field visits

His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa ordered yesterday to continue and intensify the nation-wide field visits conducted by the Ministry of Health, especially those for expatriate workers' accommodation, in order to ensure the health and safety of the citizens and residents.

HRH the Premier issued the

to the fullest, as well as protect them from risks.

HRH the Prime Minister

directive during his meeting with Supreme Council for Health (SCH) president and National Taskforce for Combatting Coronavirus (COVID-19) chairman Lieutenant-General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

HRH the Prime Minister said to conduct the field visits in a way that provides all aspects of health support to expatriate

workers, in appreciation of their services to the development process in the Kingdom.

The Prime Minister was updated about the latest developments regarding the public campaign to combat the coronavirus and its efforts to carry out the field visits and conduct laboratory tests in many regions, for the sake of preserving public health.

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themselves to be a supportive element of the development process in the Kingdom.



The government has been keen on strengthening the health infrastructure, as well as upgrading and developing the health sector in accordance with an ambitious strategy aimed at improving public health and enhancing the quality of services.

HRH THE PRIME MINISTER

HRH the Premier stressed that the health system in Bahrain has proven its merit and its ability to deal with the requirements of the current crisis, which, he said, is the fruitful outcome of the foundations on which the medical and other sectors had been built. This has enhanced Bahrain's reputation as a country that respects humans' right for a decent life and health security.

"This would not have been possible hadn't the government been keen on strengthening the health infrastructure, as well as upgrading and developing the health sector in accordance with an ambitious strategy aimed at improving public health and enhancing the quality of health and treatment services, according to the latest world systems," HRH Premier said.

HRH the Prime Minister ex-

tended congratulations to all the affiliates of the health sector on World Health Day, stressing that the world recalls with pride the great efforts and roles of the medical and nursing staff for the sake of ensuring the health and safety of everyone.

HRH the Premier expressed pride in the high sense of patriotism showcased by all Bahrainis, who rallied together to volunteer and serve the nation in order to overcome the challenge created by the spread of COVID-19, and deal with it with awareness and responsibility, commensurate with the requirements of the current phase.

The SCH president expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the government, led by HRH the Prime Minister, and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, for their sound directives that have contributed to the Kingdom's success in overcoming the challenges the world is going through.

Dr. Shaikh Mohammed lauded HRH the Premier's unwavering interest in the health sector, as well as his constant keenness to follow up closely the efforts of the national campaign to combat COVID-19, and get assured about the health situation in the Kingdom to ensure that the best services are delivered to Bahrain's citizens and residents.

## HRH the Premier issues directives in education and municipal services

● Ministry of Education instructed to work with private schools on appropriate solutions to not overburden parents amidst current circumstances, while not jeopardising learning

● Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning directed to stop collecting rent from tenants of municipal properties for three months

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His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday issued directives to the Ministry of Education to work with private schools and



HRH the Premier with officials during their meeting

agree on the appropriate solutions that do not overburden parents amid the current circumstances.

HRH the Premier added that, at the same time, the private schools' efforts to continue learning should not be affected.

HRH Premier also urged the Education Ministry to find an appropriate mechanism that ensures that the conditions of some categories, such as workers in kindergartens and nurseries, will not be affected.

HRH Premier instructed the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning to stop collecting rent from tenants of municipal properties for

a period of three months from April to June. This is taking into account the current conditions, especially for low-income and self-employed citizens who have been affected, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

HRH the Prime Minister made the statements, while receiving at his palace in Riffa yesterday, Education Minister Dr. Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi and Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf. He reviewed with them the on-going efforts to ensure the continuous delivery of various educational and municipal services.

The Prime Minister also di-

rected the Ministry of Education to put in place all facilities that enhance the efficiency of communication with students, as well as provide the necessary technical support to follow up on the students' academic achievements.

On his part, Dr. Al Nuaimi highlighted the efforts exerted by the Ministry of Education, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to serve Bahraini students abroad and ensure their safe return home.

Meanwhile, Khalaf updated HRH the Premier about the work progress in various sectors of his ministry, as well as their achievements within the Government Action Plan.

## HM the King holds call with Sultan of Oman

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday held a telephone call with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said of Oman.

HM King Hamad reviewed with HM Sultan Haitham the existing cooperation relations between the two brotherly countries, and the efforts

being exerted at all levels to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) and mitigate its effects on humans.

HM the King prayed to Allah the Almighty to protect the entire humanity from epidemics and diseases.

HM King Hamad wished HM Sultan Haitham abundant health and happiness, and more progress and prosperity to the Omani people.

## HH Shaikh Nasser receives call from British Defence Advisor

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His Majesty the King's Charity Works and Youth Affairs representative, National Security Advisor and Supreme Council for Youth and Sports chairman Major-General HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa received yesterday a telephone call from British Senior Defence Advisor to the Middle East Lt-General Sir John Lorimer.

HH Shaikh Nasser reviewed with Sir Lorimer the historical bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation

tying Bahrain and the UK and ways of bolstering them. They also stressed the importance of maintaining international efforts in combatting the coronavirus.

From his side, Sir Lorimer lauded Bahrain's efforts in battling the virus and the country's contributions towards the combined international efforts against the pandemic.

Meanwhile, HH Shaikh Nasser praised the deep-rooted distinguished ties binding both countries, wishing the UK and its people more successes and further prosperity.

## COVID-19 economic fallout report released

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The Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (DERASAT) issued yesterday a report highlighting the economic fallout of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Titled "COVID-19 Implications: Economic Perspective", the report is co-authored by

Dr. Omar Al Obaidly and Ghada Abdulla, who highlighted the stimulus packages launched by governments to mitigate the crisis' fallout.

The report sheds light on business repercussions and focuses on the impact of economic and financial developments and monetary policies.

The authors expect the global economy to

be badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, in terms of the rate of growth and the standards of living, in addition to the sustainable effects impacting the global trading system.

The report analyses stimulus packages launched by governments to support national economies, mitigate the negative economic pitfalls, and stress the need for special measures in times of major crises.