

Bahrain's support towards Palestine affirmed



HM the King's diplomatic affairs advisor, Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, met with the Palestinian Ambassador to Bahrain, Taha Mohammed Abdulqader yesterday. Shaikh Khalid confirmed Bahrain's firm backing towards Palestine. He expressed Bahrain's steady support towards Palestinian people getting their legitimate rights and an independent established state. He stressed that a just solution to the Palestinian issue would serve the interests of the entire region's security and stability. He commended Abdulqader's efforts. The Ambassador conveyed Palestine's pride and appreciation of Bahrain's fraternal stance towards their issue at all international gatherings, wishing Bahrain ever-lasting progress and prosperity. Above, HM the King's Advisor (right) with the Palestinian Ambassador.

Deputy Premier receives SEA President



The Deputy Prime Minister, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, received yesterday the Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) president, Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza, who presented him with a copy of his book entitled "Development in the Electricity and Sustainable Energy Sectors in the Kingdom of Bahrain". Above, the Deputy PM accepting the SEA president's book.

Development projects press on

Airport expansion among major ventures ongoing in Bahrain despite global economic downturn: Economic quarterly report

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Development projects in the Kingdom have continued to progress despite the global economic downturn.

This is according to the Bahrain Economic Quarterly report for the first quarter of 2020, which was published on Monday by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy on its website mofne.gov.bh.

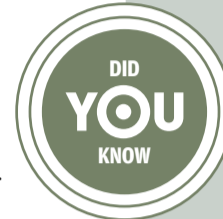
The report covers the Kingdom's economic data across various sectors, as well as an assessment of global and regional economic developments.

Among the development projects mentioned is the expansion of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), supervised by the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications in cooperation with Bahrain Airport Company.

This remains on schedule to be completed this year, making it one of the largest infrastructure development projects in the history of Bahrain at a total cost of \$1.1 billion.

Meanwhile, the report indicated that the global impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) affected Bahrain's overall economic performance in Q1, causing a decline in real GDP growth (at constant prices) at a rate of 1.1 per cent year-over-year, while the rate of decline reached 4.9 per cent at current prices.

The oil sector recorded growth at an annual rate of 1.8 per cent at constant prices, driven by an increase in



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42.5

is the percentage of the increase in production volumes by Aluminum Bahrain Company (Alba), which has contributed to the real growth achieved in the manufacturing sector

0.3 per cent.

Due to global restrictions on travel and other preventative measures to counter the spread of COVID-19, the hotels and restaurants sector real GDP declined by 36 per cent, while the transportation and communications sector declined by 6.3 per cent. The decline is evidenced in the decrease in the number of visitors through the King Fahd Causeway and through BIA by 24.2 per cent and 25.1 per cent, respectively.

Other sectors also witnessed declines in their real GDP including government services by 2.9 per cent, financial corporations by 1.6 per cent, real estate and business activities by 0.4 per cent, and trade by 0.1 per cent.

As for the contribution of the non-oil sectors to GDP, the financial corporations sector continues to have contributed the most at 16.7 per cent, followed by the manufacturing sector at 14.9 per cent, and the government services sector at 12.5 per cent, and the oil sector at 17.2 per cent.

oil and gas production by 0.5 per cent and 12.5 per cent, respectively; although growth declined in current prices by 11.5 per cent. On the other hand, the non-oil sector GDP registered a decrease of 1.7 per cent at constant prices and 4 per cent at current prices.

Indicators within the report reflected continued growth in a number of non-oil sectors despite the challenges; the manufacturing sector achieved real growth of 4.8 per cent, supported by the increase in the production volumes by Aluminum Bahrain Company (Alba) by 42.5 per cent; the social and personal services sector grew by 1.3 per cent, while the construction sector witnessed growth of

Driver arrested after hit-and-run

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A driver involved in a hit-and-run on Sunday has been arrested, the Ministry of Interior reported yesterday.

Traffic police were able to de-

tain the driver, aged 28, immediately after the incident took place at around dawn along Shaikh Hamad road in Muharraq, the Ministry said on social networking service Twitter.

A video of the hit-and-run

has been circulating online. It shows that the pedestrian involved in the incident, aged 47, was able to quickly attend to the victim and refer him to the hospital. No other details of the case were available.

Four hour long complex surgery successful



The surgical team at King Hamad University Hospital managed to eradicate a tumour in the lower oesophagus of a 50-year-old patient yesterday. The advanced and complex operation, was the first of its kind in the hospital's history. Using the latest advanced technology, the surgery took four hours under total anaesthesia to successfully remove the malignant tumour. The patient will soon begin the second stage of the treatment through radiotherapy at the Bahrain Cancer Centre. Above, the skilled medical team that performed the surgery.

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