

● More than BD21million worth of sanitation projects are being carried out to provide a healthy environment across the Kingdom

● Future pipeline projects for the sewage sector worth BD31million have been reviewed, in addition to maintenance of Tubli plant and pumping stations

● Executive plan approved to invest in four ports located in Ras Raya, Al Hidd, Askar and Budaiya

● Regulatory requirements discussed for Bahraini street vendors sector in coordination with Labour Fund Tamkeen

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Multi-million dinar projects aimed at strengthening Bahrain's infrastructure and the sustainability of services to the public and investors are being carried out across the Kingdom.



Deputy PM during the remote meeting of the ministerial committee

Deputy PM chairs remote meeting of Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects

These were discussed yesterday by Deputy Premier and Ministerial Committee for Development and Infrastructure Projects chairman Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, who chaired the 53rd meeting of the committee, which was held through video conferencing.

Committee members participated as well as officials from the relevant ministries and government departments.

Shaikh Khalid affirmed that the government, led by His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Com-

mander and First Deputy Premier, will carry on implementing the plans in order to ensure a supportive environment for comprehensive development.

The committee followed up on the sanitation projects being implemented by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning across the Kingdom.

These projects, worth more than BD21million, are funded from the general state budget.

Shaikh Khalid lauded the efforts exerted by the Works Ministry to implement the directives of HRH Premier, and those of HRH the Crown Prince, to provide a healthy environment in accordance with the Government Action

Plan 2022.

The Ministerial Committee also reviewed the BD31million future pipeline projects for the sewage sector, located in Juffair, Diplomatic Area, Zinj, and Tubli, from Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway to the Saar intersection, in addition to the maintenance of the Tubli plant and pumping stations.

The panel also reviewed the latest developments regarding the project to invest in the Works Ministry's fishing ports. The committee had tasked the Works Ministry to study the investment options in such ports through encouraging the private sector to enter into such projects, by providing privileges and attracting

mechanisms.

The Ministerial Committee approved an executive plan presented by the Agriculture and Marine Resources Department regarding the investment in four out of the 12 ports affiliated with the Works Ministry in Ras Raya, Al Hidd, Askar and Budaiya.

The panel also reviewed the latest developments regarding the issue of 28 Bahraini street vendors, who are licensed by the Works Ministry to practise their activity in Street 77 in Sanad, Street 23 in Tubli and Street 4 in Sitra.

The move is in line with the committee's keenness to ensure the diversity of legal self-employment options for the citizens.

The committee was informed about the Work Ministry's keenness to implement the experience in other regions of the Kingdom after its success in the Capital Governorate.

The committee discussed the regulatory requirements of the street vendor sector, including the licensing of Bahraini nationals only, facilitating the licensing procedures, unifying the sales stalls and supporting street vendors, in coordination with the Labour Fund Tamkeen to pay half the purchase cost of the stalls.

The committee stressed that inspection campaigns would continue to track down unlicensed vendors.

Coast Guard seizes more than half-tonne of shrimp

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The Coast Guard Commander announced on Tuesday that patrols have seized more than a half-tonne of shrimps along the west coast.

The shrimps were caught through illegal trawling nets.

He said that the land back-up patrols moved to the site after a case was reported about a mini-bus that was loading shrimps at Budaiya beach.

He said that the driver tried to flee the scene and refused to obey orders to stop. Legal steps were therefore required to be taken.

Court upholds five-year sentence for drug trafficker

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The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal recently rejected a petition submitted by a Gulf national who was convicted of trafficking and abusing drugs earlier this year, while upholding the five-year prison sentence previously issued against him.

The Fourth High Criminal Court, which announced the verdict last February, also fined the man BD3,000 and banned him from re-entering the Kingdom.

Court files showed that the appellant was arrested last October at Bahrain International Airport upon arrival from Jordan, as he was deemed suspicious to the first witness while passing through customs.

The first witness, a custom's officer, searched the appellant thoroughly and found 2,960

-pills that were hidden in his sandals. Also, the results of the laboratory tests showed that these pills contained the drug amphetamine.

Moreover, the second witness conducted investigations that confirmed that the man brought the pills with the intent of trafficking in Bahrain.

Furthermore, due to the results of the investigation, the appellant confessed to the Public Prosecution of earlier consuming drugs, after the lab results of his urine and blood samples showed traces of cannabis and amphetamine.

The court's decision came as a result of the provided evidence against the man, the testimonies of the first and second witnesses, the appellant's confession, and the technical reports.

Works Minister instructs start of processing for municipalities rents initiative

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Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf instructed those concerned in municipalities to take the necessary measures to stop collecting rents and allowance from all tenants of municipal properties for three months, starting from April.

This initiative came under the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, to support investors and traders under the current circumstances.

The minister pointed out that this action will include all users of municipal property in supermarkets, stand owners, and tenants of small shops in the malls and municipal shops.

He stressed that the financial and economic decisions and



“Rents and allowance will not be collected from all tenants of municipal properties for three months, including users of municipal property in supermarkets, stand owners, and tenants of small stores in malls and municipal shops.”

WORKS, MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS AND URBAN PLANNING MINISTER ESSAM BIN ABDULLAH KHALAF

measures clearly embody the keenness of the government to maintain sustainable growth and enable the Bahraini private sector to overcome the effects of this crisis.

The Coordination Committee, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al

Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, launched a package of economic initiatives to provide the necessary liquidity to the private sector, to deal with the effects of the current conditions in order to maintain sustainable growth.

Uncle and nephew who mugged Asian man lose appeal

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A Bahraini man and his nephew got their punishment upheld by the Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal after they pleaded against their conviction of impersonating policemen and mugging an Asian man last year.

Both men were sentenced to five years in jail each.

The incident was reported to the authorities when an Asian man, the victim, lodged a complaint to the police against the appellants, a 30-year-old uncle of the 18-year-old nephew, alleging that they mugged him for BD50 after claiming they were policemen.

The victim said in his statements that both men approached him, alleging they were cops, and asked him for his identity card, adding that they slapped him, stole his wallet and escaped.

Police investigations led to the identification and arrest of both appellants. The nephew told investigators that his uncle was the mastermind of the crime and that they mugged the victim in the Salmabad area in

the Northern Governorate.

“He informed me that we will be mugging Asian labourers, but I rejected and told him that I don't steal from people,” said the nephew in his statements. “He asked me to stop the car in Salmabad and he was talking to an Asian man, the victim, while I was waiting in the car with my headphones on.”

“My uncle suddenly called me and asked me to hold the Asian man so he can steal his wallet. After my uncle was done, he yelled at me and told me to run away.”

The nephew added: “We later met at home and he gave BD5 saying it was my share from the BD50 that he stole from the Asian man.”

Meanwhile, the uncle denied his nephew's allegations and told investigators that his nephew was the one who asked him for assistance to steal money from Asian labourers.

Both men appealed against the previously announced verdict, but the Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal rejected their request and upheld their punishment after deliberating the case and reviewing the evidence and testimonies.

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The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Hon. Chairman Prince S Natarajan announced yesterday that steps are being taken to distribute text books for the new academic year to all students at their homes, in the wake of the coronavirus threat in the Kingdom.

The school is also in the process of implementing online classes for the academic year 2020-21, in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the government.

Meanwhile, the school has been receiving a number of new applications for fee concessions from parents.

ISB has already offered fee concessions to around 1,000 students in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, with many parents having lost their jobs and are in financial troubles.

The school therefore needs financial support from the entire community in order to process these new applications for assistance.

ISB, which has the lowest fee structure in the Gulf, is appealing for the support of the Indian community,

associations, and well-wishers to mobilise the financial resources needed to help financially struggling parents in this situation, said Natarajan.

The school's governing body has decided not to charge transport fees from April until the school re-opens. For those who have already paid the fee for this month, it will be adjusted against the monthly school fees.

Students and their families who are in financial difficulties are already being assisted by school teachers and well-wishers under the leadership of the Executive Committee, headed by the chairman.

The school's charity work is done confidentially, in respect of the pri-



Prince S Natarajan

vacy of the families.

The school will do whatever possible within their limits to assist those who are in need of financial assistance, said Natarajan and Hon. Secretary Saji Antony.

Classes for the new academic year are beginning on April 12. Principal VR Palaniswamy said teachers in Class X and XII have already uploaded pre-recorded video lectures and related notes to the school's parent portal.

The school is now moving forward strictly following the guidelines of the Ministry of Education. Parents will be informed of the details of starting online classes for the new academic year in due course, said Principal Palaniswamy and Riffa campus Principal Pamela Xavier.