

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## Saving a life in 20 seconds



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Take a deep breath. Now hold your breath and count slowly upto twenty. Difficult? Its actually less than that amount of time for a child to drown if left unattended in a swimming pool or water body. In fact, a child need not even be left alone in a pool or by the beach. She or he can have a life-threatening accident in full view of other people if the parents or guardians are not alert or if there is no trained lifeguard to rescue the child.

It requires us all to follow three simple rules when it comes to prevention of drowning accidents: always insist on a pool or water body with a lifeguard, if you are not accompanying your child into the water or cannot swim yourself; children below five must always be within arm's reach of the adult carer in the water; children under 10 must be clearly visible at all times when in the water. This also includes inflatable paddling pools and bathtubs. This is particularly relevant today when adults tend to get busy with their phones when minding kids.

This is not just about children either. In a society like ours where people come from different countries and backgrounds, many adults also put themselves at risk by venturing to swim when they cannot manage anything beyond a basic shallow - water wiggle.

Now that summer is here in full blast, one of the unintended silver linings of the pandemic is that we have not heard the usual litany of sad accidents in swimming pools and on beaches. With parents keeping their children away from water bodies because of the COVID-19 health crisis, there has been at least a temporary halt to need-less water accidents.

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Of course this is not a solution and one good way to tackle unnecessary drowning is to ensure that all children and adults are taught basic water survival skills – at least the doggy paddle that will keep them afloat till help arrives. Further, as a country where so many villas, high-rise apartment blocks and hotels have swimming pools, we must ensure that they are monitored by a trained lifeguard and also CCTV camera linked to a nearby security post.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

# Beating the pandemic

Tender board awards 769 tenders valuing BD 631.9 million in H1, 2020

● **Electricity and Water Authority topped with 136 tenders in H1**

● **Tenders for housing units and apartments totalled BD90 million**

● **Electricity, water, infrastructure and sanitation tenders totalled BD150 m**

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The virus-induced downturn had little effect on the Kingdom's development drive, with Bahrain awarding 769 tenders and auctions valuing around 631.9 million dinars during the first half of the year alone, revealed a top official.

Construction and engineering consultancy sectors emerged as the most active during the period, with its tender value touching an estimated BD222.4 m.

This was announced by Sheikh Nayef bin Khalid Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Tender and Auctions Board.

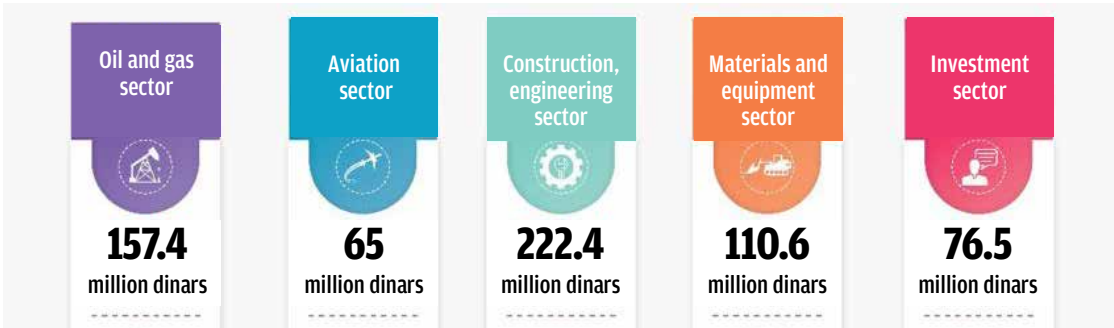
Closely following was Oil and gas sector with around 157.4 m dinars, Materials and equipment sector with BD110.6 m, Services, auctions and investment sector with BD76.5 m and the Aviation sector with BD65.0 m.

The award rate, Shaikh Nayef said, indicates the stability enjoyed by various sectors and confirms the "sustainability of development services" in the Kingdom.

The figures also stand as proof to Kingdom aspiration to provide the best service to citizens and achieve sustainability in light of the extraordinary circumstances the world is going through.

**47 government tenders**

Shaikh Nayef also announced



awarding 47 government tenders, worth BD8.25 m, during the first half of the year.

The tenders, he said, were for supporting small and medium enterprises in the Kingdom, thanks to the Council of Ministers for granting preference to SMEs sector.

Moving on, he said the digitalisation of tendering process contributed greatly in increasing the efficiency of bidding processes, which also meet the best global practices.

The Tender Board announced its first fully online tender following the launch of the second phase of the online tender system. Board moved to automate all the auctions of tenders, beginning April this year.

**Tatweer tops with BD149.875 m**

According to the board's

semi-annual statistics, Tatweer Petroleum ranked first in terms of awarded tenders amounting to a total value of BD149.857 m.

Electricity and Water Authority followed with BD115.414 m, Ministry of Housing with BD90.196 m, Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning with BD62.427 m and Gulf Air with BD59.017 m. Value of awarded tenders by rest of the organisations amounted to BD154.989 m.

**EWA 136 tenders**

When it comes to the number of tenders, Electricity and Water Authority topped with 136 tenders, followed by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning with 81 tenders, Ministry of Health with 76 tenders, Gulf Air with 75 tenders, and a development company with 59 bids.

Tender Board, Shaikh Nayef said, has maintained positive indicators in terms of optimal bidding methods, as public tenders accounted for 72.1 per cent of the total. "This confirms that the board is moving forward with international best practices," added Shaikh Nayef.

**BD90m housing projects**

The board, he said, also awarded several tenders related to prominent service projects in the Kingdom which benefits citizens and residents directly.

Shaikh Nayef said the board awarded tenders for the Ministry of Housing to build and maintain housing units and apartments which comes to around BD90 m.

The board also awarded tenders in electricity, water, infrastructure and sanitation sectors, with an estimated value of BD150 m.



**The board in the first half of this year awarded 769 tenders and auctions with a total value of about 631.9 million dinars, with the construction and engineering consultancy sector accounting for 222.4 million dinars**

SHEIKH NAYEF BIN KHALID AL KHALIFA  
CHAIRMAN, TENDER AND AUCTIONS BOARD



Established in 2002 by Legislative Decree No: 36, the Tender Board is an independent, regulator of government procurement practices in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



The Board collaborates with the public sector Purchasing Authorities, and local, regional and international contractors and suppliers, in order to ensure equality, transparency and competitiveness in all government tendering and purchasing practices.

## Jaafari Endowments Administration rejects social media claims as incorrect

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The Jaafari Endowments Administration yesterday rejected allegations doing round on social media platform about it holding a meeting and making a decision on the upcoming Ashura season as unfounded.

"What is being circulated on social media are absolutely incorrect," the administration said.

Officials explained that they had not held any meeting between the Department of the Jaafari Endowments and the official bodies in any way.

The administration confirmed that it will organise the annual meeting next Thursday morning



Picture courtesy of AlAayam

virtually and will invite relevant heads to participate.

The administration called on all

to remain vigilant against biased news and to accept information only to official sources.



Jaffaria Waqf Directorate was founded in 1927 and is an independent department attached to the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs in Kingdom of Bahrain.

The main activity of the Jaffaria Waqf Directorate is the supervision of around 724 mosques and 632 mattams as well as the supervision of the assets endowed to those mosques and mattams, the endowments of the charities, etc.