

Kanoo lauds election committee for smooth and professional chamber polls

TDT | Manama

The Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Nabeel Kanoo, received members of the Chamber's 31st Election Committee on Wednesday at the Chamber's headquarters, in appreciation of their efforts and to strengthen institutional cooperation.

Committee members congratulated Kanoo on his election, expressing confidence in his leadership and his ability to further



develop the Chamber's role in supporting the private sector.

Kanoo praised the committee for organising the elections

smoothly and professionally despite exceptional circumstances, highlighting strong coordination and efforts to facilitate proce-

dures for participants.

He said the elections recorded strong organisation and voter turnout, reflecting the engage-

ment of General Assembly members. He also underscored the transparency and efficiency of the process, which reinforced

confidence in the results and strengthened governance principles.

Committee members, in turn, commended the Chamber's executive body for its cooperation and coordination in ensuring the success of the electoral process.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Ghassan Fakhro, Mr. Rashid Ibrahim, Mr. Ali Ahmadi, Mr. Mazen AlShehabi, Mr. Rashid AlSinan, Mr. Nasser AlAhli, Mr. Majed AlAmin and Mr. Ali Makki.

Kanoo Highlights FGCCC's Role in Representing the Private Sector



Within efforts to strengthen cooperation between the Bahrain Chamber and the Federation of Gulf Cooperation Council Chambers (FGCCC), Chairman Nabeel Kanoo received Secretary-General Saleh Al Sharqi on Wednesday at the Chamber's headquarters, in the presence of CEO Atef Al Khaja. Al Sharqi congratulated Kanoo on his election, expressing confidence in the Chamber's ability to achieve further milestones under his leadership and enhance its role in supporting the private sector and economic growth. The meeting reviewed FGCCC achievements in promoting private sector development and Gulf economic integration, as well as initiatives to boost regional trade and investment. Discussions also explored future prospects to position the Gulf Cooperation Council as a global economic hub, highlighting the Federation's role in representing the private sector.

BCFC reinforces a culture of excellence

Announces promotion of national talent

TDT | Manama

Driven by its firm belief that national talent is the foremost pillar of success and the most worthy of investment, and the engine of sustainable progress, Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC) has announced the promotion of a number of its distinguished national employees to managerial positions across several of its key departments, in recognition of their proven competence, exceptional performance, and unwavering dedication to the company.

These promotions reflect the company's steadfast commitment to empowering its national

workforce, as it consistently rewards outstanding performance and invests in leadership potential, providing young talents with genuine opportunities to grow and contribute to the company's journey. In doing so, BCFC affirms its role as an active partner in advancing the goals of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, which places the private sector as a key pillar in building a productive economy led by qualified national professionals, and creates a fair working environment that transforms the ambitions of Bahraini citizens into a true success story.

On this occasion, Ms. Hanan Al-Ali, Chief People & Culture Officer: "These promotions re-



Hanan Al-Ali, Chief People & Culture Officer of BCFC

flect our strong belief that national talent is the main driver of our success and long-term sustainability. Investing in the development and empowerment of Bahraini talent remains a strategic priority for the Com-

pany. We continue to strengthen national leadership pipelines and build a strong bench of future leaders capable of driving our next phase of growth. We are confident that these promotions will enhance their leadership impact and support the Company's future aspirations."

It is worth noting that the promoted employees bring years of accumulated experience and well-established expertise, with their promotions serving as the culmination of a sustained journey of self-development and outstanding performance, a true embodiment of the company's enduring principle that lasting success begins with investing in its people first.

Oil prices jump back toward \$100 on Mideast ceasefire doubts

● **Brent North Sea Crude: UP 3.5 % at \$98.03 a barrel**

● **West Texas Intermediate: UP 5.3% at \$99.41 a barrel**

AFP | London, United Kingdom

Oil prices jumped and most stock markets fell yesterday as investors weighed the prospects of a shaky Middle East ceasefire and a re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz, crucial to restoring oil and gas shipments.

Traders were also locking in profits from Wednesday's relief rally as the first-quarter earnings season gets underway.

Equity markets across the globe had soared and crude oil futures plunged Wednesday after US President Donald Trump announced the two-week halt in the war against Iran, and Tehran said it would reopen the waterway transporting one-fifth of the world's oil and gas. But the ceasefire has been placed in doubt, largely by Israel's ongoing attacks against Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Tehran has also said it will impose a toll on ships transiting Hormuz. The main US oil contract, West Texas Intermediate, rebounded over five percent to reach almost \$100 a barrel as international calls mounted for the ceasefire to be extended after a massive wave of Israeli strikes on Lebanon killed more than 200 people.

Lawmakers seek six-month relief on utility charges for Bahraini businesses

MPs propose six-month suspension of utility, municipal and labour fees

● **Move aims to support SMEs hit by rising costs and weaker trade**

● **Lawmakers warn of business closures and job losses without relief**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahraini business owners should be spared electricity and water charges, lawmakers said, citing excep-



Jaleela Alawi, MP

tional conditions and economic strain caused by the Iranian attacks.

Four MPs have submitted an

urgent proposal to also suspend municipal and labour fees for six months, aiming to support Bahraini-owned firms, particularly small and medium enterprises hit by weaker trade and rising costs.

Jaleela Alawi, Mohsin Al Asbool, Hisham Al Ashiri and Mahmood Fardan said rising expenses and fixed obligations are making it harder for businesses to operate, warning that continued payments could force some to scale back or temporarily shut, affecting jobs and the wider economy.

They said a temporary sus-

pension would give firms breathing space to stabilise operations and gradually restore trade, while maintaining economic balance and supporting the private sector during this exceptional period.

Swift government action

The proposal, submitted on an urgent basis, calls for swift government action to ease financial pressure and keep businesses running.

Its explanatory note highlights the direct impact of the Iranian attacks on key sectors, noting that Bahraini firms, re-

liant on daily trade and steady cash flow, are among the hardest hit. It adds that rising costs and ongoing obligations are intensifying pressure, underscoring the need for support to sustain economic activity and protect jobs.

The note says the proposal is based on current exceptional conditions, higher operating costs, the burden of essential payments and the need to prevent business disruption. It aims to provide temporary relief, help firms continue operating and preserve economic stability.