

HRH the Premier holds call with Sultan of Oman

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His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa held a telephone call with Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said of Oman.

The Sultan and HRH the Premier discussed cooperation and ways to enhance them in various fields.

Sultan Haitham expressed his deep pride and appreciation for the relations between Oman and the Kingdom, and wished Bahrain and its people further prosperity under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa



HRH the Premier



Sultan Haitham

Al Khalifa. He also wished HRH the Premier abundant health and happiness. HRH the Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to the Sultan for his keenness

to promote relations between the two countries, wishing him good health and happiness and Oman continued progress and prosperity.

Kingdom committed to development goals despite economic challenges

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Bahrain continues its commitment to achieving all comprehensive development goals, despite the challenges presented by the drop of oil prices globally and the coronavirus (COVID-19), Minister of Finance and National Economy Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said.

The Finance Ministry yesterday completed its biannual financial report 2020 for ministries and government agencies, for the period ending 30 June 2020.

Shaikh Salman noted that the cohesive efforts of Team Bahrain, represented by both the executive and legislative branches, the public and private sectors, citizens and residents, has had a profound impact on the initiatives that continue to place citizens' interests at the core of all development plans.

Shaikh Salman noted that in parallel to achieving the Kingdom's fiscal balance goals, development efforts will continue to ensure growth of the national economy, and the sup-



Shaikh Salman

ply of quality opportunities for citizens.

The biannual financial report of the Kingdom's ministries and government agencies for the period ending June 30 of this year has indicated a total collected revenue of BD910 million, a decrease of 29 per cent, in comparison to the same period last year.

Due to low oil prices, oil revenue decreased by 35 per cent, in comparison to the same period during the fiscal year of 2019.

The report further indicated a fall in non-oil revenue by 13 per cent, in comparison to the

same period in 2019, as a result of a decrease in economic activity globally, regionally, and locally, and due to the waiving of government service fees during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The report reflected a discipline in total expenditure in accordance to the allocated budget, and a reduction in recurrent expenditure by five per cent, in comparison to the same period last year. Total actual expenditure recorded stood at BD1,708 million, achieving a slight increase in the disbursement by two per cent, compared to the results of the semi-annual budget implementation for the fiscal year 2019 of BD1,678 million.

As a result, the actual deficit for the biannual report for the fiscal year 2020 amounted to BD798 million, an increase of 98 per cent, compared to the biannual deficit for the fiscal year 2019.

Shaikh Salman concluded by expressing his confidence that Team Bahrain's united efforts and determination are key to overcoming all challenges presented by the global pandemic.

Incoming passengers' isolation ward approved



A screenshot of the remote Cabinet meeting taking place

Continued from page 1

The Cabinet approved yesterday a proposal to provide an isolation ward for all incoming passengers who have visited countries with high COVID-19 infection rates, and to conduct the necessary screening alongside the efforts undertaken by the government in this regard.

The Cabinet also approved the imposition of final anti-dumping duties on Bahrain's cardboard imports of origin from Spain and Poland. This is in accordance with the decision of the GCC's Industrial Cooperation Council regarding imposing final anti-dumping duties against the imports of GCC countries from the above-mentioned product for a period of five years.

The Cabinet agreed to take

final preventive measures in the form of a quantitative restriction for a period of three years on GCC countries' imports of chemical plasticisers, in compliance with a decision to combat dumping against the imports of GCC countries of this product.

The Cabinet reviewed a draft law pertaining to external audit services, particularly in keeping abreast with regulatory changes, increasing the number of qualified Bahrainis, and increasing the supply of such services to reduce prices and avoid violation delays.

The Cabinet reviewed a report on legislative oversight achievements and praised the ongoing constructive cooperation between the government and the legislative authority.

The Cabinet approved a mem-

orandum submitted by the Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs on the issuance of a business license to EHYAA Renewable Company to produce and sell electricity for the 100megawatt solar power plant project.

The Cabinet referred to the Representatives Council a draft law with a memorandum on the government's opinion on a proposal to amend some provisions of the Reorganisation and Bankruptcy Law.

The Cabinet recognised an old house in Isa Town as a national historical landmark and noted that Isa Town has one of the oldest housing stocks in the Gulf, and was the first housing project in the Kingdom.

The Cabinet approved a proposal regarding the transition of notary offices to e-notary.

Legislative, executive cooperation stressed



The Speaker with the Parliament Affairs Minister

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Council of Representatives Speaker Fawzia bint Abdulla Zainal stressed yesterday that strengthening joint-legislative and executive coordination and cooperation ensures the continuity of national achievements and supports the comprehensive development march, spearheaded by His Majesty King Hamad

bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The Speaker said this as she received Parliament Affairs Minister Ghanim bin Fadhl Al Buainain. She lauded the keenness of 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, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme

Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to unify national efforts as the best means to overcome current challenges and attain further development gains that enhance the Kingdom's progress and prosperity.

They discussed the latest developments of mutual concern, as well as the ongoing preparations for the beginning of the third session of the fifth legislative term.

Sustainable energy chief inaugurates society facility

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Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) president Dr Abdullah bin Ali Mirza inaugurated the Bahrain Corporate Social Responsibility Society (BCSRS) facility in Al Eker, which aims to virtually train

unemployed citizens in the area.

Dr Mirza praised the efforts of the (CSR) in supporting Bahraini youth in various areas and providing them with opportunities and training them for any vacancies in their work fields.

He confirmed that the

inauguration of the society is only the beginning to many future initiatives supporting various fields in the Kingdom. BCSRS founder Khalid Al Qoud noted that there will be four new headquarters in different areas of the society this year.

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