

HH Shaikh Nasser's achievement lauded

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The Cabinet yesterday extended sincere congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on the landmark achievement of the Representative of HM the King for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council of Youth and Sports Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, who won the IRONMAN World Championship which was held in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, USA.

HRH Premier expressed congratulations to HH Shaikh Nasser on the historic win that adds to Bahrain's rich record of sports accomplishments, voicing deep pride in the Bahraini youth's landmark achievements at various international gathering, including the sports ones, a post-session statement by the Cabinet Secretary-General, Dr. Yasser bin Isa Al-Nasser, said.

In another development, the Cabinet affirmed that the Saudi Government, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, is widely recognised for its commitment to its fundamentals, as well as status as a cornerstone for global, Arab and Islamic security and stability, highlighting its regional and international weight.

It also underlined the widely-known keenness of the Saudi leadership on the security and safety of its citizens wherever they are, as well as on the stability of other countries and the safety of their peoples.

The Prime Minister gave directives to form a high-profile Bahraini delegation, comprising ministers and officials, to participate in the 'Future Investment Initiative' (FII) conference, set to be held in Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and chairmanship of Crown Prince, Deputy Premier, Defence Minister, Council of Economic and Development Affairs Chairman and Public Investment Fund's Board Chairman, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The session welcomed Bahrain's ranking first in the Arab world and 47th at the world level, among 157, countries, in the "Human Capital Index", launched recently by the World Bank during the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the



HH Shaikh Nasser lifts the trophy after winning the IRONMAN championship.

World Bank Group in Indonesia.

The Cabinet said that the milestone reflects the success of the government's approach and policies aimed at wisely investing in the human capital, being the cornerstone of sustainable development, through its unwavering keenness on supporting their capabilities, knowledge and skills.

It also affirms the success of the government's educational strategy and effectiveness of its policies to improve the quality of the health services delivered to the citizens, the cabinet said while commenting on a report submitted by the ministers of Finance and Education on the reasons for Bahrain's ranking high in the Human Capital Index.

The session was informed about the tenders that had been launched during the third quarter of this year in the construction and sanitation projects.

A memorandum submitted by the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning revealed that 23 tenders, valued at BD 17.7 million, had been

launched, and that 19 among them, costing BD 41.7 million, had been awarded.

The minister also said that 50 projects, worth BD 126 million, are currently implemented.

The memorandum showed that a total of 88 tenders in roads, construction and sanitation sectors, valued at BD 101 million, had been launched in the first three quarters of 2018, and that 90 tenders, worth BD 240 million, had been awarded.

The session reviewed, through a memorandum presented by the Industry, Commerce and Tourism Minister, the key economic indicators of the the second quarter of 2018.

Figures showed an increase in Bahrain's gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter by 6.1 per cent compared to the first.

They also showed an increase in the volume of trade exchange by 9.7pc compared with the first quarter, reaching BD 2.1 billion, while imports went up by 9.8pc and exports by 4.3pc compared with the first quarter of this year.

Bahrain's solidarity with Saudi stressed



HRH the Crown Prince



HRH Prince Mohammad

Manama

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday held a telephone call with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During the telephone call, HRH the Crown Prince highlighted Bahrain's full solidarity alongside Saudi Arabia against any targeted attempts to undermine its policies, position and sovereignty. HRH

the Crown Prince also highlighted the long-standing Bahraini-Saudi ties which are underpinned by shared strategic interests.

HRH the Crown Prince went on to emphasise the constructive role played by Saudi Arabia across all fields, both regionally and internationally, and its efforts in safeguarding regional safety and stability.

HRH the Crown Prince confirmed that in response to HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman's invitation he will lead Bahrain's high-level delegation participating in the Future Investment Initiative, which is set to take place in Riyadh next week.

Bahrain to host major weddings

Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) announced that it will be hosting four major weddings, with more than 2,000 guests arriving via Gulf Air, the national carrier of Bahrain.

"We are pleased to be hosting four major Indian weddings in the upcoming months which will contribute \$5 million to the Kingdom's GDP and further promote Bahrain as a prime wedding destination. The weddings will be held during the period between November 2018 and February 2019," said the adviser to the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, Dr Ali Hassan Follad.

"The BTEA aims to provide the needed support to seamlessly host weddings in Bah-

rain by providing turn-key solutions including organising logistics, venue selection, in addition to liaising with suppliers and industry professionals such as Gulf Air," he added.

Bahrain boasts a number of 5 and 4 star hotels with a fully dedicated service sector that is able to offer all services from food and beverages, entertainment and unique wedding concepts.

5

million American dollars is the expected contribution of the four luxury Indian weddings to Bahrain's GDP.

6.1

per cent will be the growth in the Kingdom's GDP during the second quarter of 2018, according to key economic indicators.

Co-operation discussed



Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan yesterday received Indian Ambassador to Bahrain Alok Kumar Sinha. They discussed labour strides in the Kingdom as well as co-operation between the Embassy and the Labour Ministry.

Expat 'goes missing'

● If anyone has any information about the missing person, they can contact Mr Sabu on 39288072 or the nearest police station.

TDT | Manama

An Indian expatriate has been reported missing in the Kingdom.

Sources said, Parampuzha Saju Kurian who works in a pri-



Mr Saju

private company has been missing since last Friday.

Relatives said the company had informed them about "their missing staff".

The 55-year-old man hails

from the Kottayam district in the Indian state of Kerala.

Saju, whose family is in his hometown, was staying in his company accommodation in Riffa.

He has been working in the same company since 2007, sources added.

His brother Sabu Kurian along with his family lives in the Kingdom.

If anyone has any information about the missing person, they can contact Mr Sabu on 39288072 or the nearest police station.