Amir of Kuwait condoled

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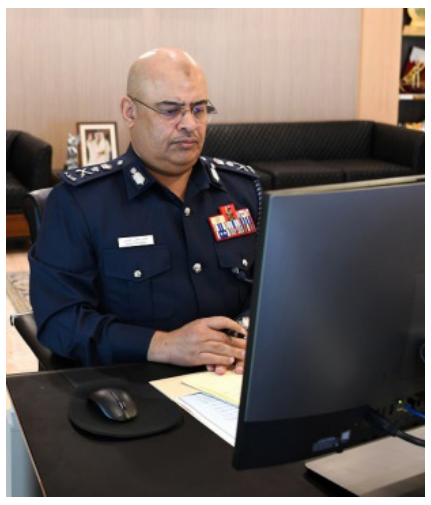
His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa sent a cable of condolences to the Amir of Kuwait, HH Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah on the demise of Shaikha Fadha Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

HM the King prayed to Allah the Almighty to bless her with mercy, rest her soul in paradise and provide the honourable Al Sabah family with patience and fortitude.

Similar message of condolence were also sent by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent condolences to the Crown Prince of Kuwait, HH Sheikh Mesha'al Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, and Prime Minister, HH Sheikh Sabah Khalid Al Hamad Al Sabah.



The Chief of Public Security, Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan yesterday chaired virtually a meeting of the Scientific Council of the Royal Academy of Police (RAP). Lt-General expressed thanks and appreciation to Interior Minister and RAP Board of Trustees Chairman, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa for his ongoing support and wise directives to develop scientific and training programmes to meet security changes and challenges. The meeting reviewed various topics, including programmes of the second semester of the academic year 2020-2021 for the Police and Criminal Science Diploma and the organisation of a course to reinforce national loyalty and values.

Bahrain, South Korea for greater ties

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Special Envoy for Environment Affairs and Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Dainah, yesterday received in his office South Korean Ambassador to Bahrain, Hae Kwan Chung.

Dr bin Dainah stressed the keenness of SCE to further boost cooperation by exchanging information, expertise and implementing environmental projects.

Discussions also focused on various issues on the environment and preparations to hold the 2nd edition of Bahrain-S. Korea conference. South Korea will host the event by the end of this year.

The South Korean ambassador praised the ongoing development in Bahrain and highlighted the usage of technologies to handle various environmental challenges.

Award for productive families, PPE kits for Tatweer and shoes for Gulf Air

Tender board opens 77 bids received for 15 tenders

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The tender opening committee

Preparations are ongoing for the Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award to encourage productive families.

A tender for organising the award ceremony was opened recently by the Tender Board.

Seven companies are vying for the contract offered by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development. Bids range between BHD 20,580.000 to BHD 82,026.320.

Future Exhibitions & Conferences emerged as the lowest bidder and Orange Media Group OMG the highest.

The award is held annually at the local level and biennially at the Arab level.

No confirmation is available on the date of the award ceremony.

According to a BNA report, the labour and Social Development Ministry earlier announced extending the deadline to receive applications for the award, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

77 bids, 15 tenders

The new development came as the Tender Board, the independent regulatory body charged with overseeing government bidding opened 77 bids received for 15 tenders by eight administrative bodies in the Kingdom.

The board also opened another tender by the Labour Ministry. It was for procuring consultancy and research services and received two bids. Rewaq Engineering's BHD 3,150 was the lowest bid and Socotec Gulf SPC's BHD 64,800.000 the highest bid.

The committee then opened a tender by the Ministry of Information Affairs for replacing a Vision Mixer Production Switcher Console System at its news centre. Two bids received for this tender. BHD 86,655.880 by BSS Trading was the lowest.

The committee also opened two tenders for the Electricity and Water Authority.

The first was for maintaining speed control devices for medium voltage water pumps in water pumping stations at Al Dur station, Al Hidd station and Salmabad station manufactured by ABB and Siemens. The tender attracted three bids ranging from BHD 15,537.900 to BHD 41,958.000. ABB Electrical & Automation was the lowest bidder.

Water meter systems

EWA's second tender was for maintaining the water meter systems at Al Hidd Energy Production Company for two years. Almoayyed Electrical & Instrumentation Systems' BHD 29,033.760 emerged as the lowest of the three bids.

Gulf Air

In the aviation sector, the committee opened two tenders for Gulf Air. The first was for the appointment of a freight forwarder in the United Kingdom and Ireland, for which received five bids. The second tender for the appointment of a freight travel agent in the Philippines attracted four bids. The third for purchasing Gulf Air's uniform shoes and safety shoes for staff received seven bids.

In the oil and gas sector, Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco) offered a contract for supplying groceries to Al-Awali Club, Al-Dar, Awali Hospital and Al-Refinery Restaurant. The three-year contract received four bids ranging from BHD 71,020.340 to BHD 395,008.540. Abdullatif Khalid Alaujan Food Stuff was the lowest bidder.

Finally, the committee opened a tender by Tatweer Petroleum for supplying Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for three years. The tender received 11 bids ranging from BHD 125,049.280 to BHD 258,248.660. Kavalani & Sons emerged as the lowest bidder.

Bahraini students excel in TIMSS

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Bahraini students excelled in the TIMSS 2019 assessment tests, conducted for the fourth and eighth grade students in 64 countries and eighth benchmarking systems.

The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study is an international assessment and research project designed to measure trends in mathematics and science achievement of the fourth- and eighth-grade students, school and teacher practices related to instruction.

TIMSS comprises IEA's TIMSS 2019: TIMSS Mathematics—Fourth Grade, TIMSS Mathematics—Eighth Grade, TIMSS Science—Fourth Grade, and TIMSS Science—Eighth Grade.

In the fourth grade, Bahrain's scored 480 points in mathematics and 493 points in science. In the eighth grade, Bahrain scored 486 points in science and 481 points in Mathematics.

Following Bahrain in the fourth and eighth grades were the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. East Asian countries—Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong SAR—were the top performers.

Noura Jalal from Umm Kulthum Preparatory School for Girls ranked first in mathematics in the eighth grade (second preparatory), outperforming all students of this grade in public and private schools, by bagging an achievement rate of 769, which far exceeds the international average.

When asked about her experience, Noura said: "The creative teaching of my teachers led me to this honourable achievement."

She added, "I won first place at the school level for the first year of middle school, and I got prepared to participate using the exercises explaining the pattern of questions and solving them."

Fixing methane leak lands top honour for two NSSA affiliates

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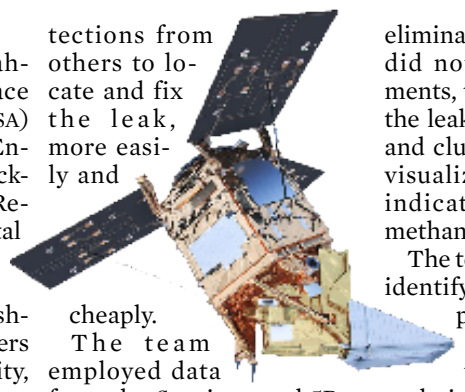

Two affiliates of Bahrain's National Space Science Agency (NSSA) shined in the Microsoft Energy Core AI Academy Hackathon on "Hydrocarbon Release and Its Environmental Impact".

NSSA's affiliates, Aysha Al-Haram and Ahmed Bushlaibi, and their team members from the Khalifa University, clinched the third position in the hackathon which had world companies, researchers, space agencies and higher education institutions as participants.

The global competition was for finding new ways to harness machine learning techniques to identify methane emissions and leaks through satellite remote sensing data.

Bahrain team built an application to find the sources of a methane leak. They classified each detected reading as either a source or a consequence of another source. The team then separated these detections from others to locate and fix the leak, more easily and cheaply.

The team employed data from the Sentinel 5P, a satellite measuring the atmosphere above the Permian basin and Saudi Arabia, over ten days, the Khalifa University said.

The method involved satellite data pre-processing to eliminate all data points that did not meet the requirements, tracking the source of the leakage by tracing points and clusters, and then using visualization techniques to indicate the source of the methane leak.

The team built a timeline to identify each cluster of data points that indicated methane and linked these clusters with their corresponding possible sources from past data. "Using this approach, they pinpointed the correct methane source using multiple parameters, like the concentration, distance and density of the gas," the University added.

Aysha Al-Haram

Ahmed Bushlaibi

Aysha Al-Haram and Ahmed Bushlaibi expressed their pride in achieving third place in the global event, noting that the exploit was the fruitful outcome of the constant support of the NSSA.

Shell and Repsol, two companies with significant research and development departments, won the first and second places.

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Emissions from the fossil fuel industry are one of the major sources of atmospheric methane. Gas leakages due to accidents in the oil and gas sector can release large amounts of methane within short periods of time. Although these emissions are very challenging to monitor, satellite measurement platforms offer a promising approach by regularly scanning the entire globe.