

Award for Voluntary Work



Labour and Social Development Minister, Jameel Humaidan, receiving the Good Word Society Chairman and Arab Union for Voluntary Work President, Hassan Mohammed Bu Hazza, who handed over to him the "HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Award for Voluntary Work". The Labour Ministry was among the winners of this year's edition of the award during the virtual distribution ceremony held on September 27 under the patronage of Cabinet Affairs Undersecretary and Honorary President of the Good Word Society, His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa.

Tehran preparing arms shopping list



Representative picture

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A study by the Riyadh-based think tank International Institute for Iranian Studies (Rasanah) stated that nuclear deal alone was not enough to curb the dangers posed by Tehran to the region. It highlighted Iran's capabilities when it comes to missile production.

Reverse engineering

"Iran can produce hundreds of sophisticated, reverse-engineered improvised missiles. Through black-market or top-secret unannounced purchases, Tehran is suspected of building a missile force capable of evading the radars of its neighbors with speed and in-flight maneuverability. Considering the short flight duration between its adversaries, the threats from Iran's government to the region cannot diminish with the existing nuclear deal as it does not cover Iran's missile capability," the study said.

Proxy war

Iran also has a long history of arming and financially supporting its network of proxies - militias across the Middle East - to further its influence in the region.

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Iran's reliance on its missile force makes it highly probable that it will face a high degree of escalation and pay severe retribution. It has [therefore] successfully managed threats by deploying its missiles via its proxies in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen

STUDY

by deploying its missiles via its proxies in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen," the study adds.

"Reverse-engineered or locally assembled missiles" have been smuggled to Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and Shia militias in both Syria and Iraq.

"Drones have worked well for Iran, from Yemen to Iraq and Syria to Lebanon. A sanction-stricken country like Iran, without its many missiles and numerous drones, cannot project power and implement deterrence measures thousands of kilometers away."

After the embargo is lifted "Iran's arms shopping list will include missile defence systems, fighter jets and submarines."

SCW says closely watching COVID situation

TDT | Manama

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The Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Hala Al Ansari, in a statement, said that while many countries had faced immense challenges, Bahrain remained immune of that thanks to determination and support of citizens and institutions during the pandemic.

She also stressed the Council's resolve to maintain cooperation with all relevant parties to further support women in the Kingdom and their capability.

Reduce municipal fees for citizens in furnished housing: member

● Raising this issue is Zeina Jassem, head of the Finance and Legal Committee in the Northern Municipal Council

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A proposal has been tabled to reduce the Municipal fees of buildings and furnished apartment rented to Bahraini families in the Kingdom.

Raising this issue is Zeina Jassem, head of the Finance and Legal Committee in the Northern Municipal Council who also demanded to treat such families as "Bahraini families staying in housing owned by them."

As of now, Zeina said, citizens applying for such a reduction are turned back by the works ministry citing lack of provision



Zeina Jassim, Head of Finance and Legal Committee at the Northern Municipal Council

in the law.

Zeina, however, pointed out that the Municipalities Law per Article No. (49) of Clause (A) which deals with municipal fees on buildings and furnished rental apartments, and Item (B) on the percentage of fees cur-

rently do not excludes Bahraini families.

"So at present, it difficult to fulfil the desires of citizens."

"But, this is possible by amending some items in Articles (48) and (49) of the executive regulations.

As per the provisions of the Minister of Housing, Municipalities and Environment Resolution No. (3) of 1999 regarding the reduction of municipal fees, "unfurnished buildings and apartments rented to Bahraini families equates to Bahraini families living in housing owned by them." However, furnished buildings and apartments, whose monthly rent exceeds 200 dinars per month, and rented to Bahraini families, even if it is their only housing, are not covered by the decision to reduce the municipal fees, and therefore they are obliged to pay a rate of 7 per cent to 7.5pc.

Proposal made to amend building permit law on facade

● The front wall of a building is currently the boundary of a property

TDT | Manama

Northern Governorate Municipal Member has come up with a proposal to amend the building permit requirements regarding front walls in housing units.

The proposal, Municipal member Abdullah Mubarak Al-Qubaisi said, is for allowing citizens to build a room (majlis) or public facilities from the front wall of housing units, as the current construction areas are insufficient to meet the needs of many Bahraini families. Al-Qubaisi is the head of the technical committee and the representative of the ninth district in the northern governorate.

The front wall of a building



Municipal member Abdullah Mubarak Al-Qubaisi

is currently the boundary of a property according to ownership document or contract, he said, adding that there are spaces or unbuilt areas that are usable for the families staying there.

Most of the housing projects are years old and with families staying there now having grown-up children, forcing them to expand their living areas.

The municipalities, however, are still demanding them to remove the additions, considering them as violations.

This decision constitutes a burden on these citizens, claimed Al Qubaisi.

He said that the proposal is to amend the building permit requirement regarding the front wall in housing units to support these citizens.

We need to look at their demands with compassion, especially considering the housing crisis and request backlogs.

Multiple families are now staying in the same house, which are more than twenty years old.

They are hard-pressed to find more space to uplift their life.

It is noteworthy that the Municipal Council, in its third regular meeting, decided to amend the building and licensing requirements regarding its front wall, which would contribute to meeting the needs of the Bahraini citizen.

#VandeBharatMission



Air India Flight AI 940 to Delhi departs from Bahrain International Airport with 150 passengers on board. The flight was part of India's Vande Bharat Mission which is now in its seventh phase. The mission brought back to India a total of 1,846,742 Indian nationals stranded in various countries across the world following lockdown linked to the coronavirus pandemic. VBM has chartered over 1,093,393 flights till 15 October 2020.