

Eskan Bank starts returning April installments on housing loans

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Eskan Bank said that it had started returning the April installments for all citizens with housing loans.

The move is in line with the Cabinet's decision to postpone installments due to Eskan Bank for six months, and to stop the collection of rent from tenants and beneficiaries from the shops owned by Eskan Bank for a period of three months, starting from April.

The bank indicated that it had completed all coordination procedures with other banks that are cooperating in providing housing financing, adding that all the sums will be returned to citizens within the next few days.

Eskan Bank praised the order of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salam Al Khalifa and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, to postpone the installment payments, within efforts to reduce the economic impact of the coronavirus on citizens, and support commercial activities during this period.

Fighting off COVID-19

Extensive sterilisation campaign conducted in Manama Suq, Bab Al Bahrain

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An extensive sterilisation campaign was conducted in Manama Suq, in particular at Bab Al Bahrain, as part of the national campaign to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19).

A special sterilisation truck was used to spray the Suq's streets, while a team of volunteers wearing personal protective equipment including body suits, gloves, face masks and goggles also roamed the area spraying disinfectant.

The campaign was held in co-operation and coordination with the Capital Governorate and its Police Directorate, at the initiative of Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (Asry) company.

The sterilisation process was attended by the Capital Governorate Police Directorate director-general.

Capital Governor Shaikh Hisham bin Abdul Rahman Al Khalifa stressed that the strong relationship that the governorate has established with the private sector, along with that of volunteers, has contributed to enhancing community cooperation and created a growing awareness of the coronavirus.



The sterilisation campaign being conducted in Bab Al Bahrain



Shaikh Hisham explained that community partnership is the only way to limit the spread of COVID-19. He added that the people of Bahrain are now more aware of the importance of the government's measures taken to curb its impact, which has resulted in a greater commitment from the public to staying at home.

The Capital Governor added that this partnership contributes to overcoming this health crisis



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CAPITAL GOVERNOR SHAIKH HISHAM BIN ABDUL RAHMAN AL KHALIFA

by working responsibly and following the instructions of authorities, especially during sterilisation campaigns in the capital and across Bahrain in general.

For his part, Asry Public Relations Department head Wael Hamzah expressed his pride in the company's opportunity to help sterilise the Manama Suq.

He said that it is in service of the homeland and its citizens and residents, especially under the current challenging period that the Kingdom is experiencing.

AUBH offers Cambridge Assessment Testing

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The American University of Bahrain (AUBH), an official Cambridge Assessment Center for English language testing, has opened proficiency testing online to the Kingdom.

The announcement has come as a response to the widespread cancellation of English proficiency tests.

The testing will take place on ProctorU, AUBH's online artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled proctoring platform.

ProctorU, solely adopted by AUBH in the Kingdom and used by respected institutions worldwide, protects the integrity and credibility of high-stakes exams.



Amidst the widespread cancellation of international English proficiency tests, students, employers and institutions in Bahrain still urgently need these assessments. Being a recognised Linguaskill testing center, it was important for us to bridge our capabilities with the technology we already have in place.

AUBH PROVOST DR. MARK D. SHERMIS

AUBH Provost Dr. Mark D. SHERMIS commented: "Amidst the widespread cancellation of international English proficiency tests, students, employers and institutions in Bahrain still urgently need these assess-

ments. Being a recognised Linguaskill testing center, it was important for us to bridge our capabilities with the technology we already have in place: namely AI-enabled ProctorU.

"This globally recognised

technology will ensure the continuation of English language assessment while also guaranteeing the integrity of results."

Drawing on over 100 years of research, Cambridge Assessment exams are trusted as secure English tests by governments worldwide. Linguaskill results are aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), the international standard for describing language ability. Cambridge qualifications are internationally accepted as the highest quality mark in English language assessment.

For more information, visit aubh.edu.bh.

HM the King congratulated on Bahrain's achievement in Holy Quran competition

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Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Abdullah Al Khalifa extended his sincerest congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa on Bahrain's clinching fourth place internationally in the eighth edition of the Shaikha Hessa bint Mohammed Al Nahyan Award for Holy Quran competition.

The achievement was made in the remote contest by female competitor Zain Khamis Abdullah Al Nuaimi in the memorisation of the whole Holy Quran category.

The Justice Minister described the accomplishment as an extension of the series of achievements brought about by Bahrainis in international Holy Quran competitions. He stressed that these



Shaikh Khalid

achievements are the dividend of continuous support and care of HM the King to all programmes aimed at serving the Holy Quran.

The Justice Minister took pride in the honourable standing achieved by Bahraini competitors in such contests, which have reached more than 70 placings and wins, in addition to participating in the arbitration of those competitions thanks to the experience acquired by the Islamic Affairs affiliates in this respect.

Red Crescent Society delivers aid to 4,500 families in Bahrain

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Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has concluded a campaign to deliver Ramadan aid to about 4,500 families in diverse regions of the Kingdom, according to the records of underprivileged families registered on the Society's lists.

BRCS this year delivered in-kind assistance to eligible families in their homes, instead of inviting those families to attend the Society's headquarters as was the practice every year, as part of the precautionary measures to prevent the coronavirus (COVID-19) spread.

The volunteers of the society made great efforts in delivering this aid to needy families in their homes in 73 regions, villages, cities and governorates, where they dis-



Volunteers with some of the donations being delivered to needy families



tributed themselves to small teams and worked to deliver aid during the evening after Iftar, while wearing masks and gloves and ensuring social distancing.

The volunteers were very keen to deliver aid to underprivileged families directly, despite the difficulty of reaching everyone, especially

since some of the beneficiaries did not inform the Society of their recent addresses. The distribution schedule included specific days allocated for each region to ensure the smooth distribution process.

The distribution of aid to needy families in these difficult circumstances is further evidence

of BRCS' endeavor to support the Bahraini community, especially since reaching more than 4,000 homes in different regions of Bahrain is a very challenging task.

The volunteers worked to deliver this aid to the worthiest families, meet their needs, and preserve their humanity and dignity,

73 is the number of regions, villages, cities and governorates across Bahrain where volunteers of Bahrain Red Crescent Society delivered aid to needy families in their homes

benefiting from the experience and deep knowledge of BRCS for more than years regarding the requirements of needy families.

Express Rent-a-Car contributed 14 cars from its fleet for free at the disposal of BRCS to distribute this aid, and a number of famous social media celebrities and a number of

athletes participated as volunteers in the delivery. BRCS director-general and acting general secretary Mubarak Al Hadi praised the efforts of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to distribute aid to eligible families, despite all the challenges. He said that delivering this aid required double the efforts of the Society to fulfill its obligations this year to needy families, under the slogan "Giving with Dignity".

"We also thank Express Rent-a-Car company and all the Society's partners for their support, and we urge companies and institutions operating in the country, as well as beneficiaries of citizens and residents, to provide their hoped-for donations for the success of this aid programme in the same way this year, as it did in the previous years," said Al Hadi.