

TDT | Manama

The Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, yesterday delivered a statement on behalf of the Arab group and the Maldives at the 100th meeting of the Development Committee, on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC.

Shaikh Salman highlighted the importance of job creation in order to achieve the WBG's goals of ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity, adding that job creation is vital to the success of any social and economic programme aimed at achieving comprehensive development.

He welcomed the WBG's Jobs and Economic Transformation (JET) initiative, noting the importance of aligning its concepts with efforts to further develop the business environment, bridge infrastructural gaps, and lay the foundations of private sector investments through the modernisation of legislation.

The minister also stressed the importance of supporting private investment in education in order to provide quality opportunities, especially for women and young people.

He went on to highlight that the JET initiative could play a positive role in transforming the development of the MENA region by improving job creation and helping to alleviate youth unemployment, which is at its highest level in two decades.

Job creation 'vital to success' of any socio-economic programme

Shaikh Salman calls for more investments in education, healthcare



Shaikh Salman speaks at the meeting.



Shaikh Salman yesterday met with the Vice-President and Secretary of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Sir Danny Alexander, on the sidelines of his participation in the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC.

In this regard, Shaikh Salman noted that various studies show that the MENA region will need to create nearly 300 million jobs by 2050 in order to meet demographic pressures, stressing the importance of promoting vocational education, training and lifelong learning.

On behalf of the Arab group and the Maldives, Shaikh Salman welcomed WBG's support for the job creation agenda, highlighting the WBG's ambitious new approach and developed policies intended to create millions of quality op-

portunities for the region's young people.

He stressed that the region is in need of a comprehensive strategy to further develop its markets through policy reform, strengthening of institutions, and investment mobilisation in order to create quality jobs and prosperity for all.

Shaikh Salman added that comprehensive development is not in itself sufficient to create jobs, noting that equal opportunity, limiting restrictions on labour mobility, and increasing investments in

300

million jobs should be created in the region by 2050 in order to meet demographic pressures.

the health and education sectors are also important for regional growth.

Later, the Development Committee highlighted that the growth of the world economy is still unbalanced and vulnerable to risks that have recently intensified. The Committee further highlighted the vital role of Global Value Chains (GVCs) and world trade in supporting economic development, creating jobs, and promoting sustainable development.

In this regard, the Committee called on all member states to implement policies that ensure inclusive economic growth, reduce economic risks, enhance compet-

itiveness and further strengthen financial stability.

Furthermore, the Committee noted the importance of investing in human capital to ensure that all individuals are equipped with the skills and abilities to adapt to advancements in technology.

The committee also noted the importance of the Human Capital Index in the creation of policies and decision making, calling for its development as a credible measurement tool that reflects the actual situation of a country, for the benefit of all.

Karva Chauth celebrations



Punjabis United in Bahrain (PUB) celebrated their annual Karva Chauth Ceremony on Thursday, which was attended by members and their families. Karva Chauth is a one-day festival celebrated by Hindu women from some regions of India, especially northern India, four days after purnima (a full moon) in the month of Kartika. Like many Hindu festivals, Karva Chauth is based on the lunisolar calendar which accounts for all astronomical positions, especially positions of the moon which is used as a marker to calculate important dates.

Academy 'to bring out best diplomats'

Manama

The Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Diplomatic Academy has

multidisciplinary particularities that blend diplomatic, historic and cultural stimulations to offer the most suitable environment

for people who want to become diplomats, the executive director Dr Shaikha Muneera bint Khalifa Al Khalifa has said.

The academy through its programmes is keen to provide its members with theoretical and practical skills that deal with international relations and foreign policy as well as with written skills, different languages and follow-up during their career in diplomacy, she said.

The academy prepares and qualifies diplomats through foundation programmes, starting with the "Foundation Programme for New Diplomats", which provides those working in the diplomatic field with all required academic curricula and diplomatic skills, Dr Shaikha Muneera said.

"The academy is committed to providing an intensive training and improvement programme for the diplomats before they are assigned abroad. The diplomatic qualification



Dr Shaikha Muneera is the executive director of The Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Diplomatic Academy.

includes the languages of the host countries, training in negotiation and in dealing with the media as well as basic needs that prepare diplomats for their mission," she told Bahrain News Agency (BNA).

All the programmes that the academy is currently implementing or will introduce in the future are based on the main needs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, such as training in public speaking and political analysis, which is offered to all levels of staff in the ministry, she added.



The academy is committed to providing an intensive training and improvement programme for the diplomats before they are assigned abroad.

DR SHAIKHA MUNEERA

Dr Shaikha Muneera highlighted the special care and attention given by His Majesty

King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to diplomacy in Bahrain, and his keenness on a sound training of young Bahrainis to become representatives of the Kingdom and its culture and diplomacy in various regional and international forums and to ensure that their aptitudes and capabilities are a source of pride for all Bahrain.

"There is an immense pride with the decision of HM King Hamad to transform the Diplomatic Institute into an academy and to name it after His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak. The academy is an essential part of the integrated progress in the Kingdom of Bahrain, especially in the field of diplomacy, to which HM the King accords great and care attention. The progress of the academy is in line with the requirements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to prepare new generations of Bahraini diplomats according to the highest international standards in this field," she said.

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