

Vow to make Bahrainis the 'first choice of employment'

Tamkeen reopens programmes to develop skills and further support citizens

● **In line with HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's directives**

● **Initiatives part of National Employment Programme second edition**

● **Focus on developing national human resources for new market needs**

TDT | Manama

Labour Fund "Tamkeen" has announced the reopening of its programmes to develop the skills of Bahrainis and make them the first choice of employment within the labour market.

This is in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to launch the second edition of the National Employment Programme which aims to employ 25,000 citizens this year and provide 10,000 training opportunities, through three initiatives.

These initiatives include the

reopening of Tamkeen's programmes to enable Bahrainis to be the employees of choice within the private sector, in addition to supporting employers to create new job opportunities for citizens, and improving their wages. Currently, the average wage of national workers in the private sector amounts to BD763.

In particular, Tamkeen has allocated a budget of BD120 million for the next three years, from 2021 to 2023, to support the employment of Bahrainis.

The amount has been doubled compared to the budget allocated the past five years. It has also increased the amount and duration of the support provided for those registered at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development as well as fresh graduates.

The budget is also dedicated towards developing and enhancing current and new programmes, including supporting remote and part-time work, to meet the needs of the current market, especially due to the economic repercussions caused by the pandemic on the global market.

Tamkeen chairman Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa said the reopening of its programmes come as part of the Government's vision for the next phase of encouraging the employment of Bahrainis, including



A virtual discussion about Tamkeen's programmes



These initiatives include the reopening of Tamkeen's programmes to enable Bahrainis to be the employees of choice within the private sector, in addition to supporting employers to create new job opportunities for citizens, and improving their wages.

recent graduates.

This is done through enhancing their competitiveness in the labour market and focusing on developing their skills based on the market requirements.

During a press conference, the Minister of Labour and Social Development and Chairman of the Board Directors of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), Jameel bin Muhammed Ali Humaidan, discussed the role that the Ministry and the Authority will play in cooperation with Tamkeen and the other relevant parties in executing the three initiatives of the second version of the National Employment programme.

Humaidan stated that the launch of this programme aims to encourage employers to hire citizens during the pandemic,

as this period witnessed a surge of job applications, which was made easier through online registration instead of in person.

This has also led to the increase of the numbers of job seekers, which comes with the aim of supporting employers by allowing them to create job opportunities for citizens, in addition to monitoring and evaluating the labour market.

Humaidan pointed out that LMRA will start implementing the second initiative by extending the period for announcing the vacancies in Bahrain, from two weeks to three weeks, before opening the application for recruitment to expatriate workers.

This is done to encourage employers to benefit from this programme, increase the period of advertising jobs, and give employers better opportunities to select candidates based on their needs.

As for the third initiative, Humaidan explains that LMRA will coordinate with the Ministry of Interior to tighten security measures to monitor and deport any illegal workers, to allow Bahraini citizens to be the employee of choice when employers are hiring.

The initiative seeks to address any issues within the labour market caused by this type of employment, where Humaidan

pointed out that the inspectors will work to execute the seven rules recently issued by the Cabinet to regulate flexi and non-flexi employment.

The Minister called on employers and job seekers to benefit from the National Employment Programme, indicating that the Ministry will provide electronic services to facilitate the procedures, and ensure its success, and achieve its desired goal of increasing the employment of Bahraini citizens in the private sector.

Tamkeen Chief Executive Officer Dr Ebrahim Mohamed Janahi stated that the registration for the programme will open on 24 January.

Tamkeen's support will be provided through training and wage support, in addition to offering a special programme catered towards recent graduates to boost their employment opportunities, whether it's full-time, part-time, or an internship, preparing them to work within private sector enterprises.

Applications for the Enterprise Support Programme is scheduled to be opened next month. It will include new changes that contribute towards meeting the requirements of the market, in addition to supporting employees with their career progression.

Loans in Bahrain grow 5.8% to BD10 billion

● **The unified budget for loans granted by retail banks is divided into business, individual and government sectors**

TDT | Manama

Newly published official data revealed that the total loans and facilities in Bahrain until the end of November last year reached BD10.3 billion, increasing by 5.8 per cent on an annual basis from BD9.7 billion in the



Bank loan

same period of 2019.

According to Central Bank of Bahrain data, the unified budget for loans granted by retail banks is divided into three main branches.

They are the business sector,

which constitutes 51.3 per cent of the total loan budget amounting to about BD5.3 billion; the individual sector, which constitutes 45.3 per cent of the total loans amounting to BD4.7 billion; and the government sector, which constitutes 3.3 per cent of the total loans amounting to BD349 million.

In terms of business sector loans, the data shows a growth in total loans granted by 2.8 per cent, growth of personal loans by 7.9 per cent, while loans granted to the government registered a growth of 30.6 per cent on an annual basis.

In the business sector, loans are distributed among several sectors, namely the construction sector, in which loans amounted to BD1.9 billion, followed by loans granted to the industrial sector about BD1.2 billion, and trade sector loans amounted to BD950.1 million.

Amounting to BD4.7 billion, personal loans were topped by securing real estate with 46.3 per cent of personal loans, and the loans themselves amounting to BD2.177 billion constituted about 21 per cent of the total loans granted in Bahrain.

Newly redeveloped Isa Town Walkway inaugurated



Special guests during the inauguration

● **It provides space for children to enjoy recreational games and other sports**

TDT | Manama

The Southern District Municipality has inaugurated the Isa Town Walkway after being redeveloped and rehabilitated under the patronage of the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Engineer Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf.

Present were Deputy Issa Al Qadi, Representative Ahmed Al Amer, Director General of

the Southern District Municipality, Eng. Asim Abdullatif Abdullah and Deputy Governor of the Southern Governorate Issa Thamer Al Dossary.

The project, which is located on an area of 10,000 and 300 square metres, included the installation of a rubber floor in five areas for games of different colours with an area of 1,500 square metres; the installation of artificial grass and red bricks for the game corridors; in addition to the installation of multiple games and other sports, planting various trees, and installing irrigation network and umbrellas in the gaming areas, at a total cost of BD55,000.

BDF Chief of Staff receives Jordanian Military Attache



Chief of Staff of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), Lieutenant General Dhiab bin Saqr Al Nuaimi, received in his office yesterday Military Attache at Jordan's Embassy in Bahrain, Air Commodore Mohammed Ali Al Samadi. He welcomed him, lauding his role in bolstering military cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He also praised solid fraternal ties binding both countries. Both sides discussed means of boosting bilateral cooperation mainly in the military and defence field.

Shaikh Zayed Highway lane set for closure

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning has announced the closure of one lane on Shaikh Zayed Highway to give way to improvement works.

One lane will be provided between Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway and Salmabad bypass for east-bound traffic. The closure will be effective from today at 11pm until Sunday at 5am. All road users are requested to observe and obey the traffic rules for the safety of all.