

Achieving goals together

Collaborative efforts of executive and legislative branches drive development process

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The executive and legislative branches have expressed pride in their collaborative efforts, which are instrumental in achieving the goals of the comprehensive development process led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

During a joint meeting, the two sides reviewed the outcomes of the semi-annual closure of ministries and government agencies for the period ending on 30 June 2023.

The meeting, chaired by Council of Representatives Speaker Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam and Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, representing the legislative branch, and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, representing the government, highlighted the achievements resulting from their cooperation.



Council of Representatives Speaker Al Musallam and Shura Council Chairman Al Saleh representing the legislative branch

The representatives from the executive branch emphasised the government's dedication to realising the goals of the Fiscal Balance Programme according to the predetermined schedule.

This commitment aims to strengthen the kingdom's financial stability, foster economic development, and create high-quality job opportunities for its citizens.

Ministries and government agencies have demonstrated their commitment to the state budget for 2023-2024, despite global challenges such as declining oil prices.

The semi-annual closure re-

vealed a decrease in total revenues by 2% compared to budget projections, reaching BD1,441 million.

Total expenditures amounted to BD1,823 million, resulting in a deficit of BD381 million. However, there is optimism for increased public revenues in the second half of the year due to expected oil price rises and diversified income sources.

The executive and legislative representatives reviewed the agreements on which the general state budget had been approved. They include mainly:

- Adherence to the goals of the Fiscal Balance programme by

continuing to reduce expenditures and increase revenues to reach the balance point.

- Determining the priority for implementing the required projects related to infrastructure and services, including roads, municipal projects and sanitation.

- Launching initiatives to rise the citizens' salaries in the private sector and enhance their employment preference.

- Raising work fees for non-Bahraini employees to make the citizens the best choice for employment.

- Expanding professional development programmes for Bah-

raini employees.

- Supporting the employment of citizens by enacting the necessary legislation to deduct an amount from the surpluses of the Insurance against Unemployment Fund for the benefit of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen).

- Increasing the monthly living improvement allowance for retirees from BD125 to BD 165 dinars for those whose pensions are less than BD1500, and from BD150 to BD190 for those whose pensions are less than BD700, so that 92% of retirees will benefit from it.

- Increasing the monthly living improvement allowance for public sector employees from BD60 to BD100 and from BD50 to BD85, so that 94% of public sector employees will benefit from it.

- Doubling the monthly support for people with severe disabilities to reach BD200.

- Raising the public debt ceiling by one billion Bahraini Dinars to cover financing needs during the implementation period of the general budget for the years 2023-2024.

HH Shaikha Hessa receives Social Work Pioneer Medal



HH Shaikh Hessa Muscat

Her Highness Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Member, INJAZ Bahrain Board of Directors Chairperson, has been granted the Social Work Pioneer Medal by the Ministers of Social Affairs and Social Development of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

HH Shaikha Hessa was conferred the prestigious medal during the second ceremony to honour local social work pioneers in GCC countries, held in Muscat, Oman.

Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfor, Minister of Social Development, received the medal on behalf of HH Shaikha Hessa.

She was recognised for her success in achieving her goals in the social and humanitarian goals, especially in the fields of youngsters and youth.

Under HH Shaikha Hessa's leadership, INJAZ Bahrain has, over the past 18 years, benefited about 615,000 students by fostering their creativity and preparing them to meet the requirements of global labour markets.

On the occasion, HH Shaikha Hessa expressed her deepest pride in obtaining the top award in the name of Bahrain, dedicating the prestigious GCC medal to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, as well as to Her Royal Highness Princess Sa-beeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of HM the King and SCW President.

Bahrain-UN cooperation



Sustainable Development Minister Noor bint Ali Khulaif met Navid Hanif, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), on the sidelines of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2023 Summit in New York. The meeting discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Bahrain and the UN and areas of capacity building, especially with regard to strengthening data systems and national statistical capacity. The meeting also highlighted Bahrain's progress in the field of preparing the unified framework for environmental, social and governance standards.

Bahrain-Kuwait ties



Osama bin Ahmed Khalaf Al Asfor, Minister of Social Development, met with Shaikh Firas Saud Al Malik Al Sabah, Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs, Family Affairs and Childhood. The meeting came on the sidelines of the ninth meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Social Affairs and Social Development in the GCC countries, held in Oman. They exchanged ideas on developing social affairs in the areas of family development and people with determination, in addition to the Bahraini ministry's projects to empower productive families.

Bahrain-India relations



Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa, Director General of Bahrain Institute for Public Administration, received Vinod Kurian Jacob, Ambassador Designate of India to Bahrain. The director general praised the long-standing Bahrain-India relations in various sectors, affirming Bahrain's commitment to boost diplomatic cooperation. She highlighted the Institute's commitment to extend its cooperation with India in the fields of training.

NSSA data analyst wins global award

● For leadership in space science and technology

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Aisha Al Hajri, Space Data Analyst at the National Space Science Authority (NSSA), has been honoured with the Special Achievement in Geographic Information Systems (SAG) Award by Esri in San Diego, US.

Al Hajri received the award for her exceptional use of mapping and geographic analysis technology, as well as her leadership in the field of space science and technology.

"I am proud to receive this award, which aims to show appreciation to institutions from various countries that use Geographic Information System (GIS) technology for their ability to absorb huge amounts of



Al Hajri with Dr. Al Aseeri

space data and harness geospatial technologies to solve the problems we face on Earth," Al Hajri said.

She expressed her pride in receiving the award and highlighted the importance of GIS technology in solving Earth's challenges by utilizing space data.

Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Al Aseeri, CEO of the NSSA, commended Al Hajri's achievement, emphasising the government's support for developing skills

and capabilities in the space sector.

"The authority is keen to support all its members to develop their capabilities and develop their skills in all fields related to its work to serve all sectors in the Kingdom," Al Aseeri said.

Esri, a California-based company founded in 1969, is a global leader in GIS Mapping Software, Location Intelligence, and Spatial Analytics, serving numerous organizations worldwide.

Public health and safety readiness accreditation



Bahrain International Airport (BIA) has earned the prestigious Airports Council International (ACI) Public Health & Safety Readiness Accreditation, for successfully demonstrating its proactive management practices and commitment to the safety and well-being of Bahrain International Airport's passengers. This acknowledgement aligns with BIA's ongoing commitment to prioritising health and safety measures in strict accordance with the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) recommendations and the health protocols outlined by ACI Aviation Business Restart and Recovery guidelines. The ACI Public Health & Safety Readiness Accreditation program serves as a testament to Bahrain International Airport's capabilities to manage unforeseen public health and safety disruptive events, by demonstrating it can effectively respond to crises while maintaining the highest level of service and passenger satisfaction.