

# Al-Jasra Intersection third phase begins

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The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning yesterday inaugurated the third phase of the Al-Jasra Intersection development project.

Construction of entrances and exits at the intersection, modification of barriers on the upper bridge, asphalt layer works etc. are part of the project funded by the Gulf Development Programme and supported by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Essam Khalaf said the project



Pictures courtesy of AlAyam



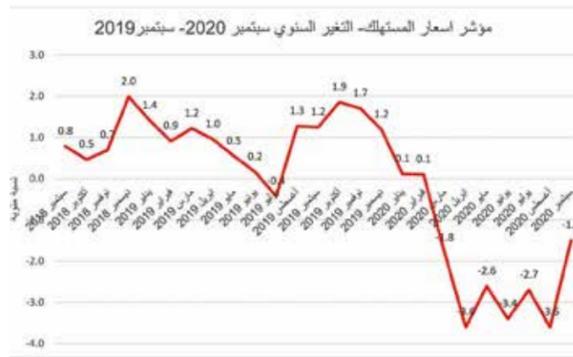
serves those coming from Manama towards the Al-Jasra and

Budaiya areas, and those coming from the Hamala towards

Manama. The intersection will also

serve those coming from the Budaiya area heading to Saudi Arabia via the King Fahd causeway.

## Consumer prices drop in September



Courtesy of AlAyam

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Bahrain's consumer prices in September took a drop as the economy reeled from restrictions imposed to prevent the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

According to the latest report, the Kingdom's CPI slumped 1.5 per cent in September this year, when compared to that of the same month a year ago.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure that examines the weighted average of prices of a basket of consumer goods and services, such as transportation, food, and medical care. It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.

While the decline in prices was broad-based, it was more evident in the entertainment and culture sector, where it dropped a whopping 38.5pc.

Closely following was clothing and shoes with a decline

of 9.8pc, restaurants and hotel with a drop of 8.5pc.

Meanwhile, prices of the food and non-alcoholic beverages saw an increase of 4.2pc.

Cost of housing, water, electricity and fuels rose 3.4pc on a year-over-year basis.

However, on the sequential month basis, the Consumer Price Index rose by 1.3 per cent to reach 98.4 points (considering April 2019 = 100).

The move comes amid a series of fiscal and monetary stimulus aimed at enhancing economic activity.

Bahrain continues to pump money into the economy amid the unprecedented situation brought forth by the pandemic all over the world.

During this period, prices of the entertainment and cultural activities dropped by 6.2pc, the transportation group by 1.2pc, and food and non-alcoholic beverages group by 0.9pc.

The costs of housing, water, electricity and fuels increased by 7.1pc, and the education by 0.4pc.

# 880 teachers now have Microsoft certifications

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Bahrain's digital empowerment drive in education is picking pace with it having more than 880 teachers now with Microsoft professional certificates.

The Minister of Education, Dr Majid bin Ali Al-Nuaimi said the certifications are in the Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE), the Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert (MIEE) and the Microsoft Certified Educator (MCE).

"Teachers of the first phase of the Digital Empowerment Programme schools benefited from the agreement in June 2015, the affiliates of the second phase schools in July 2016, and those of the remaining schools in the following years," said Dr Nuaimi.

The accredited professional certificates, the Minister said, allows teachers to acquire technological knowledge, use digi-

tal programmes and devices in their classrooms.

"It also enables them to remain informed about new ideas and applications in the fields of distance learning and Integrated Education, which contributes to achieving quality education," the Minister added.

"I am proud"

Professor Amin Mansour, an education technology specialist

Bahrain's agreement for Partners in Learning with Microsoft in February 2015, gives teachers the opportunity to join remote training programmes at any time. Teachers can also qualify after taking professional certification exams at the Regional Center for Information and Communication Technology (RCICT), which is an accredited centre for these exams.

DR MAJID AL NUAIMI, EDUCATION MINISTER



at Ahmed Al-Omran Secondary School for Boys, who holds an expert teacher certificate from Microsoft International, says: "I am very proud of this global participation as an expert partner in digital transformation. I am proud of my contribution to distance education, TIMES and televised classes."

Professor Maryam Shams from Al-Hidd Secondary School for Girls, who holds the MIEE

Expert Teacher Certification, said that Microsoft for teachers help integrates technology and modern digital tools into the teaching process.

"It breaks the routine, revives and motivates every student in the class."

Microsoft requires all teachers who have obtained the certificates to teach their colleagues a set of digital tools so that the benefit is widespread.

## Combating red palm weevil

Capital municipality begins survey of 2000 palm trees

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The Capital Municipality, in cooperation with Agriculture and Marine Resources, launched a campaign to implement preventive measures to limit the spread of red palm weevil.

This came during a visit of the Capital Municipality Director-General Mohammed Saad Al-Sahli, with the Assistant Undersecretary for Agriculture Affairs, Dr Abdulaziz Muhammad Abdul Karim, to King Abdullah Street. They discussed methods of treating the infested palms, in the presence of the Chief of Parks and Gardens at Capital Municipality, Ahmed Showaiter, and several officials.

Al-Sahli pointed out that the increase in the number of palm trees in the capital, which



Officials during a visit to discuss methods of treating infested palms

reaches 2000 now, reflects the Municipality's enthusiasm in supporting the National Strategy for Agricultural Development.

A decision was taken to distribute pheromone traps in main streets, intersections and

public squares to reduce the levels of infection by blocking the chances of reproduction.

The red palm weevil insect, discovered in the early 1990s in Bahrain, creates extensive damage to palm tissues and weakens the structure of the palm trunk.



Good sanitation practices are needed to prevent Red Palm Weevil spreading from infested palms. Chipping, burning, and burying infested material deeply can reduce the likelihood that Red Palm Weevil will emerge and escape from infested palms. Mass trapping has been used to reduce Red Palm Weevil densities.



Air India Flight AI 940 to Delhi departed yesterday from Bahrain International Airport with 147 passengers & 2 infants on board.

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