

Premier receives Crown Prince



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier at Gudaibiya Palace. They stressed that Bahrain, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, has been able to overcome many challenges. They added that thanks to the royal wisdom, the government's resolve and the people's determination, the kingdom is capable of going ahead on the path of development and changing challenges into motivating factors for achievement and excellence. They also expressed satisfaction at Bahrain's progress in various development fields, underlining the kingdom's advanced Arab and international status which is reflected by international indices.

Voluntary Retirement Programme preparations underway

Manama

The General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI) is stepping up preparations to implement the Voluntary Retirement Programme.

"A plan is being drawn up to ensure the smooth implementation of the retirement scheme," said GOSI Acting Chief Executive Officer Eman Mustapha Al Murbati.

The General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI) held a series of meetings with the Ministry of Finance and the Civil Service Bureau and updated them on preparations to implement the Voluntary Retirement Programme. Mr Al Murbati announced that pensions and other premiums would be



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MR AL MURBATI

disbursed as planned, adding that other dues would be paid to employees whose applications for voluntary retirement have been approved.

The Voluntary Retirement Scheme is one of six initiatives featuring in the Fiscal Balance Programme, which aims at allowing CSB employees to enter the private and entrepreneurship, and contribute to spurring economic growth.

Directive to tackle floodwaters

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While tackling floodwaters caused by the first spell of showers in the Kingdom, HRH the Premier gave directives to the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry to take prompt and immediate measure to deal with the most affected areas.

In this regard, the Cabinet was informed, through a report by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, about the precautionary measures taken to deal with the rain season.

Among other things, the session, in line with the government's keenness to preserve fish stocks and the marine environment, approved a number of measures aimed at regulating fisheries and reducing fishing efforts in the marine environment, as well as developing the marine wealth through a range



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of measures and executive decisions to prevent further deterioration of fish stocks because of overfishing.

The relevant minister was requested to take the necessary executive decisions to protect the

kingdom's fishing environment and fish stock.

In a related context, the cabinet agreed to expand fish farming and encourage investment in it, being an important economic and food resource, as recommended by the Ministerial Committee for Construction and Infrastructure, and presented by the Deputy Premier and committee chairman.

The Cabinet approved the addition of a number of individuals and entities to Bahrain's Terror List, and requested the competent authorities to take the necessary procedures, as highlighted in the memorandum submitted by the Minister of Interior in this regard.

The session endorsed the Internal Regulation of the Capital Trustees' Board and the draft - edict on issuing it, as recommended by the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs and highlighted in the

memorandum presented by the Deputy Premier and committee chairman.

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highlighted in the memorandum presented by the Deputy Premier and committee chairman.

The session discussed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on economic, technical and investment cooperation between Bahrain and Egypt, and referred it to the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs, following a presentation by the Minister of

Finance.

The cabinet reviewed a draft-law on amending Article (35) of Decree-Law 36/2002 with respect to Regulating Government Tenders and Purchases.

The bill was referred to the Council of Representatives, alongside a memorandum including the government's opinion on it.

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