

# Strengthening national plan for ‘gender balance’

● **Report bolsters Bahrain position as centre of international expertise in women’s affairs**

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The Cabinet yesterday approved a memorandum by the Minister of Finance and National Economy on the National Gender Balance Report (2019-2020) prepared by the Supreme Council for Women.

The report aims to measure the effectiveness and impact of policies and legislation in achieving the national plan for the further advancement of Bahraini women and strengthening the position of the Kingdom of Bahrain as a centre of international expertise in women’s affairs.



HRH the Crown Prince Prince and Prime Minister chairs the weekly Cabinet meeting

The report revealed that the Kingdom’s overall gender balance index for the years 2019-2020 increased to 69%, reaching 73% in key areas reviewed.

Institutional performance index reached 65%, with an increase in participation of women in specialised jobs, the legislative authority, commercial activity, and representation in boards of directors and committees.

This was among the memorandums discussed yesterday during the weekly Cabinet meeting held at Gudaibiya Palace and

chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The Cabinet also approved the following:

1. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding several MoUs and an execution plan between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE, which aims to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.
2. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding a

request by the Supreme Council for the Environment to join an agreement on the establishment of the Global Green Growth Institute, which aims to promote sustainable development and improve economic, environmental, and social conditions through international partnerships between the public and private sectors.

3. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs on pledges related to health and climate change, which are in line with the Kingdom of Bahrain’s

international commitments, and steps towards achieving an active role in climate action and the further development of the national health system.

4. A memorandum by the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism on the Kingdom of Bahrain’s tourism strategy (2022-2026). The strategy aims to highlight the Kingdom’s status as a global tourism centre. This includes increasing the tourism sector’s contribution to GDP and diversifying tourism through several initiatives and projects. The strategy intends

to enhance tourist attractions, accommodation, and investment opportunities in the Kingdom.

5. A memorandum by the Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Education and Training Quality Authority, regarding the annual report of the Education and Training Quality Authority for 2021. The report outlines the performance of education and training institutions after applying exceptional frameworks for evaluation during the global COVID-19 pandemic.
6. A memorandum on digital policies that aim to enhance e-government services and facilitate their use for business development.
7. A memorandum by the Ministerial Committee for Legal and Legislative Affairs regarding the government’s response to a law proposal submitted by the Shura Council.

# Bahrain in ‘growth’ paths amid pandemic

Focus on implementing royal directives for economic recovery, financial stability

● **Finance Minister holds remote meeting with key officials to discuss development initiatives**

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Bahrain is stepping up efforts to achieve economic recovery and enhance financial stability amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This was emphasised by Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa as he met remotely with Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Chairman Samir Nass in the presence of other key officials to discuss a number of initiatives aimed at developing the economy and creating a qualitative opportunity for citizens.

The meeting was also attended by Central Bank of Bahrain Governor Rashid Mohammed Al Maraj, Minister of Industry, Com-



Shaikh Salman with other participants in the online discussion

merce and Tourism Minister Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, Tamkeen Board of Directors Chairman Shaikh Mohammed bin Isa Al Khalifa and Development Council Council CEO Khalid Humaidan.

Shaikh Salman noted the growth paths that reflect the strength of the Kingdom’s economy, which is based on Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030, and lauded the royal directives and the continuous follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The meeting also reviewed the most prominent achievements of the Kingdom in addressing the COVID-19 repercussions, which included three priorities: preserving national employment, helping the most affected sectors, and placing Bahrain in the most appropriate position to benefit from the economic recovery.

The Minister highlighted the contents of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa’s speech at the opening of the Shura and Representatives Councils’ fourth session of the fifth legislative term.

HM the King called on business owners to adopt more ideas and initiatives for comprehensive economic development.

This set the foundations for the next stage, Shaikh Salman pointed out.

This is to focus on the role of small and medium enterprises as key drivers to achieve sustainable development goals, support development in the field of industry and future sciences, and deal with environmental and climate challenges, in addition to continuing to strive towards achieving balance.

It also focuses on financial and self-sufficiency as a basic entry point for the development and sustainability of national resources and wealth, tightening control over the quality of procedures and services, and commitment to the continuous development of performance with the latest administrative and technical practices.

The Minister indicated the focus in the next stage on achieving economic growth based on knowledge and innovation and enhancing the competitive position of Bahrain.

## Bhavans-International School Quiz BISQ 2021’ competition successful



3. Students in the competition

● **Bahrain Indian School (BHAVANS) and The Indian School advance to the final**

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A quiz competition not only aims at testing the knowledge of the students but it equally focuses on familiarising the students with the prospects of quiz and objectivity of questions.

A spectacular event – ‘Bhavans’ International School Quiz-BISQ’ – was held at Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School on 23 October.

Students from six CBSE schools of Bahrain, namely The Asian School, The Indian School, The New Indian School, New Millennium School, Ibn Al Hytham School and Bahrain Indian School, competed with students of other Indian Schools across GCC.

It was a preliminary round which was hosted and conducted by Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School.

Participants from schools of Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Ajman, Bahrain and Kuwait took an active part in the event.

Eleven teams from Bahrain, 40 from UAE and 17 from Kuwait took part in the quiz from their respective countries.

The participants were from Grades V-VII. The duration of the quiz was one hour with 40 questions ranging from the fields of world art and literature, science, technology, social science, sports and current affairs.

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The best two teams in the preliminary round were students from Bhavans-Bahrain Indian School and The Indian School. The selected best two teams from Bahrain will be competing for the glory in the Grand Finale which will be held on 30 October on an international platform.

The winners in the final round will receive the following prizes: \$1,000 (first prize), \$750 (first runner-up) and \$500 (second runner-up).

Director Himanshu Verma and Ritu Verma heartily congratulated and appraised the students for their outstanding performance.

BIS Principal Saji Jacob encouraged the participants, appreciated them for their knowledge and thanked them for participating in this prestigious quiz.

## Virtual Hindi Oratory Inter-School Competition

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The New Millennium School, Bahrain, hosted its second virtual Hindi Oratory Inter-School Competition ‘UDAAN 2021’ on 7 October.

Students from all the CBSE schools in the kingdom gathered at a common digital platform to showcase their talents.

The glory of the great Hindi laureate and poet Munshi Premchand was celebrated and witnessed as the students performed the One Act Plays based on his literary pieces.

The New Millennium School



Dr Pillai, Geetha and Sharma supervising the competition

clined the title as Mehak Bhakuni of Grade X A emerged as winner of the competition. Shlok Dinesh Vedak of The Indian School bagged second place, and Karen Susan Jacob of The Asian School won third

place.

School Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai, Managing Director, Geetha Pillai and Principal Arun Kuumar Sharma congratulated the winners and extended their wishes to the mentors and parents.

## Philippines joins international community celebrations

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The Philippines, through the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, joins the community of nations in commemorating the entry into force of the United Nations Charter 76 years ago yesterday.

The United Nations Day is celebrated each year on 24 October.