news of bahrain

DAILY tribune

New specialised port for cruise ships on the anvil

Plans are also developing to organise trips using amphibious buses

e Corona pandemic has cancelled 55 port of calls of cruise ships

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lans are on the anvil to develop a specialised port for cruise ships, with the Diyar Al Muharraq, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism Zayed bin Rashid Al-Zayani revealed. The minister also said that the authorities are also working to organise land and sea trips using amphibious buses

The expectation is that all these and other umpteen projects in the pipeline will help the Kingdom alleviate the effects of the painful blow dealt by the coronavirus outbreak to the tourism sector.

The outbreak had forced operators to cancel 55 cruise ship port of calls in Bahrain during the 2019/2020 season, said the minister.

when the Kingdom was ex- gan in October 2018, continued pecting the travellers footfall to reach 103,000, but COVID-19 derailed all that."



"This happened at a time season." That season, which be- rapid global growth. until April 2019.

"Nearly 81 thousand tourists Zayani said the Kingdom at- destination based on a boutique

peans, during the 2018-19 cruise tourism sector, which witnesses

Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority is working ac-Replying to a parliamentary cording to a strategy to make types of accommodations, and turned out as a major tourist the global marine tourism map," question by MP Ali Zayed, Al Bahrain an elite family tourist diversifying tourism revenues.

lifestyle making thriving busia hub for conferences.

ease of access and mobility, de- activities.

veloping and increasing various The authority is keen on mar-

keting the archaeological and modern sites in Bahrain, increasing cruise ship port calls by providing incentives to shipping companies, developing and improving port facilities with the private sector, operating tours for cruise ship passengers and participating in relevant international exhibitions.

Explaining, the minister said work is currently underway to develop several waterfronts directly and in cooperation with the private sector, which includes beaches, restaurants, cafes, walkways and public facilities.

In the past five years, Bahrain, the minister said, introduced 21 tourism activities like operating tours, diving trips and pearling to enhance marine tourism revenues.

The number of activities lifull use of the censed to practice in the sector reached 16 during the last four ness environment, years. "These are proving crucial vibrant modern life- to the growth in the number of style and the status as cruise ship visitors."

The minister also attribut-The strategy, the minister ed the recent jump in tourism said, follows a four-pronged ap- revenues to islands like Jarada, proach, which includes promot- Hawar that provide opportuniing Bahrain globally, ensuring ties to practise various marine kind in the world."

magnet, the minister added. "Amongst them, the most im-



work is currently underway to develop several waterfronts directly and in cooperation with the private sector, which includes beaches, restaurants, cafes, walkways and public facilities.

ZAYED BIN RASHID AL-ZAYANI

portant being the addition of the Dive Bahrain, the largest of its

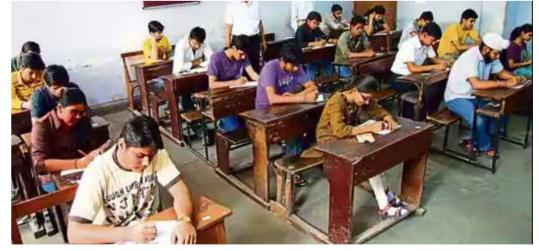
'These activities are consol-Shellfish collection trips also idating Bahrain's position on added the minister.

Labour Minister inspects **Child Protection Centre**



JEE last-minute cancellation: Indian Embassy says in touch with NTA

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abour and Social Development Minister, and Chairman of Lathe National Childhood Committee, Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, yesterday held an inspection visit to the Child Protection Centre in Manama.

The visit was part of efforts to deal with cases of abuse, violence or negligence against children.

The minister verified the services and procedures to protect children, treat them and reintegrate them into society within a secure family environment.

The minister affirmed the ministry's keenness to develop the Child Protection Centre.

The centre receives complaints through the toll-free hotline (998).



Ttudents might get another Chance to sit for the Joint Entrance Examination or JEE (main) 2021 in Bahrain after the exam to be held on 23rd this month was suspended at the last minute, citing COVID-19 restrictions.

Indian Embassy, in a statement to Daily Tribune, said they are in "touch with the National Testing Agency (NTA) of India regarding the conduct of JEE (main) 2021 in the Kingdom."

Talks are also ongoing regarding "the February Session exams not held in Bahrain due to Covid related restrictions."

suitable plan will come for the to cancel the exam. conduct of B.Arch/ B.Planning papers, in the interest of the an hour before the first batch is for admission to IITs. candidates."

said, "The candidates could appear in the March session, along be held," students and parents with other candidates."

For further updates, the emremain in touch with the Na- papers. The Paper1 is for ad- unable to assist." tional Institute of Bahrain, as mission to Undergraduate Enwell as NTA and Embassy web- gineering Programmes (B.E/B. left worried about their kids sites, and Social media handles." Tech) at NITS, IIITS, other Cen- and wondering if Bahrain will

une that the authorities left tutions (CFTIs), Institutions/ centre.

Representative picture (Courtey of Hindustan Times)

The embassy confirmed: "A minute regarding the decision by participating State Govern- ents said their recommendation

"The exam centre informed

was supposed to write the exam restrictions the exams cannot exam on 23rd this month.

told Tribune.

them in the dark until the last Universities funded/recognised ments, as well as an eligibility is to conduct the missed exam test for JEE (Advanced), which

Around 200 students were For B.E./B.Tech, the embassy on 23rd that due to COVID-19 supposed to appear for this

Parents say they approached the Indian Embassy but were that Bahrain will continue to The Joint Entrance Examina- told, "Since they were involved be a centre for such examinabassy said, "The students should tion (JEE Main) comprises two at the last minute, they were

Parents said they are now Manv students had told *Trib-* trally Funded Technical Insti- continue to be an examination

Most of the students and paragain.

The "best course of action would be for the missed exams to be held again for these students," parents told Tribune.

They also urged to ensure tions in the future. According to the Ministry of Education, India, "The JEE (Main) is being conducted in multiple Sessions (February/March/April/May 2021) for admissions in the next academic session."