

**CAPTAINS CORNER**

Our beloved Crown Prince and Prime Minister shows the way forward



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

Leadership is a trait that can either be absorbed by a person or something that the person is born with. In the case of our beloved Crown Prince and Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, it is clear that he has been gifted with inherent statesmanship and the ability to inspire him in the upliftment of Bahrain.

This was clear way back in 2006, when he boldly reformed the labour market, establishing the LMRA system and creating a level playing field for expats and Bahrainis alike and at the same time offering Bahraini nationals with plenty of training and business development opportunities. His Royal Highness has always displayed a decisive leadership that puts the people of Bahrain first because he firmly believes that the human resources of the Kingdom is its true wealth.

Even today, in the midst of the worst pandemic that the modern world has seen, when countries all

over are struggling with their core health and education budgets, Bahrain, following the directives of the CP-PM, is actually adding more strength to these sectors, with an eye to preparing our young people for the future and to keeping the nation healthy. In later years, this will undoubtedly stand us in good stead as the world recovers from the crisis of the pandemic and moves towards a brighter time.

The CP-PM has also announced that the Kingdom would strengthen the private sector in order to expand its role in the prosperity and development of the nation. He has spelt out that he is keen to continue developing financial services, information and communication technology, tourism, logistics, oil and gas and manufacturing as the sunrise sectors of the 21st century.

As for us, the citizens, in the midst of one of the most challenging phases of our nation's progress, we should be assured that we have such a strong and clear-eyed young leader in our CP-PM to take forward the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and give each citizen the reassurance of a well-marked way forward.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

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# Sitra walkway, Danaat Al Hoora, school maintenance and more

The tender board receives 99 bids for ten tenders

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Development of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Street intersection, maintenance of Sitra Walkway, and Works of Danaat Al Hoora are some of the projects being awarded by the Tender board this week.

Altogether, the board opened 99 bids for ten tenders placed by eight administrative bodies in the Kingdom.

Representatives of the administering parties and the companies participating in the tenders were present.

The tender board said it would award the projects to the best bids, based on conditions and lowest price.

The first tender opened was for developing the intersection of Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Street with Street 1 - Sitra.

The tender launched by the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning attracted 18 bids.

The bids range between BHD 120,996.870 and BHD 297,349.430. Santy Excavation & Construction Company made the lowest quote, and Al Ahlia Contracting Company the highest.

The project aims to reduce traffic connection and delays during peak hours by upgrading the current intersection.

The committee also opened two other tenders by the Ministry of Works. The first was for engineering consultancy services for road design works, for which received 15 bids. The second was for the comprehensive maintenance work for Askar Primary and Middle School for Boys and Ahmed Al-Fateh Primary and Preparatory School. The project received eight bids ranging between BHD 297,880.000 and BHD 404,000.000. Saraya Contractors was the lowest bidder.

Capital Municipality tender for the maintenance of Sitra Walkway

and 21 parks in the Capital Municipality attracted eight bids. BHD 183,976.800 quoted by Al Jameel for Garden Care was the lowest.

A tender by the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments said it is looking to hire specialists at its IT Directorate. The tender attracted 11 players, with them quoting between BHD 96,733.350 and BHD 157,437.000 to take up the work. Nexcel Computer Solutions was the lowest bidder.

Electricity and Water Authority was looking to lease a tower crane with a height of 18 meters. Three bids received for this tender. Zayani leasing's BHD 43,444.800 emerged as the lowest.

A tender by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities for renting cars received five bids.

In the oil and gas sector, the committee opened a tender by Tatweer Petroleum for procuring a rapid intervention vehicle. Five parties made quotes between BHD 73,500.000 and BHD 117,747.000. Sayed Kadhem Al Durazi & Sons emerged as the lowest bidder.

The committee also opened a tender by the Eskan Bank for engineering supervision work at the Danaat Al Hoora project. The tender attracted 18 bids.

Finally, a tender by the Bahrain Real Estate Investment Company (Edamah) for laying and connecting electricity cables to the warehouses located in Sitra Industrial Zone attracted eight bids. Al Ahlia Contracting Company's BHD 160,822.940 emerged as the lowest bid.

## Priority for SMEs in tenders, auctions



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The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism and the Tender and Auctions Board yesterday pledged to ensure increased participation for small and medium-sized enterprises in government tenders and auctions.

"This would increase their competitiveness, profitability and raise their contribution to the gross domestic product of the Kingdom," said Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani.

The Industry Ministry, Al Zayani said, received more than 1,800 applications to obtain a certificate of classification of small and medium enterprises.

The industry ministry approved more than 1,140 applications through a registration system on its website since its launch in April of 2019.

"The certificates qualify these institutions to obtain a 10% preference in government tenders and auctions," said the minister.

Al Zayani said the ministry is also promoting the advantage of classification certificate through workshops.

Shaikh Nayef bin Khalid Al Khalifa, the Chairman of the Tender and Auctions Board, said, "The board received 539 bids from 151 small and medium enterprises during 2020. Fifty-nine of the small and medium enterprises won contracts worth 55 million dinars."

## Mazaya scheme helped 490 people to buy their dream homes this year: ministry

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The Mazaya social housing finance scheme helped 490 people purchase their dream homes since the beginning of this year, said Basim Yacob Al Hamer, the minister of housing.

In total, the programme since its inception has helped 7,001 home buyers," added the minister.

A total of 1,691 people got their dream homes through Mazaya during the year 2020.

The programme offers Bahrainis an opportunity to own their



dream home through a real estate financing facility subsidised by the Government of Bahrain.

The average value of hous-

ing units purchased amounts to 109,000 dinars, with the Northern governorate accounted for 45% of the units' purchased.

The percentage of the purchase of housing units in Muharraq Governorate was 87% compared to 13% for ownership apartments.

In the Northern governorate, that percentage was 79% (housing units) and 21% (apartments). In the Southern Governorate, ninety-two per cent of the sales were for housing units and 8% for ownership apartments. People in the capital bought only housing units.

Breaking down further, the minister said that citizens whose monthly income ranged between 600 to 700 dinars accounted for 40% of the purchase. Twenty-six per cent of the beneficiaries earned salaries between 701 to 800 dinars. The remaining 13% drew salaries between 801 and 901 dinars. According to the scheme, a client will only pay 25% of the basic salary, inclusive of fixed allowances, towards the instalment. Ministry of Housing will pay the remaining instalment amount.



Deputy Chief of Public Security, Major-General Abdullah Mohammed Al Zayed, chaired the Interior Ministry's delegation to the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX), in Abu Dhabi. Assistant Chief of Public Security for Operations and Training Affairs Brigadier Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa was part of the delegation. The Deputy Chief asserted that the participation aims at learning about modern security techniques.

## Body found on roof-top in Muharraq

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The Ministry of Interior is investigating a death after a body was found on the roof of a building in Muharraq.

Officials say the body is of a person aged 32 years.

Investigators are working to find the man's identity.

So far, investigators are not suspecting foul play. Competent authorities at the scene and the investigation is progressing, the Interior Ministry tweeted.