

BDF praised for 'efficiency, professionalism and achievements'

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister, commended the Bahrain Defence Force's efficiency, professionalism, selflessness, and achievements, as well as their role in safeguarding the Kingdom's national security and stability.

He added that the BDF's per-

sonnel will remain a symbol of loyalty and a source of inspiration for all.

HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he visited yesterday the General Command of the BDF.

His Royal Highness was received by the Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, HE Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Minister of Defence, HE Lieutenant General Abdullah bin Hassan Al Nuaimi, and other senior officers.

He highlighted that the King-



HRH Prince Salman receives the BDF Commander in Chief

dom is making considerable progress on its wide-ranging goals, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister noted citizens' commitment to furthering the Kingdom's development and strengthening its position globally across all sectors.

His Royal Highness emphasised the BDF's role in supporting the Kingdom's comprehensive

development, led by His Majesty the King.

The Armed Forces' Deputy Supreme Commander was briefed on the BDF's future development plans and programmes and commended its advanced training and combat readiness.

HRH Prince Salman expressed his gratitude to the Commander-in-Chief for strengthening the BDF's military capabilities and safeguarding regional security alongside the Kingdom's allies.

For the benefit of Bahraini citizens

HRH Prince Salman: National efforts will sustain economic and investment successes

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, underlined national efforts to sustain economic and investment successes and provide quality opportunities for Bahraini citizens.

HRH Prince Salman, also Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board, was speaking as he chaired yesterday the EDB's Board of Directors Meeting, at its headquarters in Bahrain Bay.

The Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, several senior officials, and members of the board of directors of the EDB, also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Bahrain's economic indicators, the EDB's milestones in the first six months of 2023, and the SME Development Board Key Performance Indicators were reviewed.

His Royal Highness highlighted Team Bahrain's achievements in furthering economic growth and attracting investments, in support of Bahrain's Economic Recovery Plan and Economic Vision 2030, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister noted the role



HRH Prince Salman chairs the Bahrain EDB Board Meeting



of Bahraini citizens in supporting the Kingdom's wide-ranging development and in building a prosperous present and brighter future for all.

He emphasised the EDB's role in attracting direct investments across vital priority sectors and creating quality opportunities for Bahraini citizens. This has helped to position Bahrain as an attractive investment destination, in line with Economic Vision 2030.

His Royal Highness commended existing public-private partnerships and the legislative authority's cooperation, which helped expand the Kingdom's economic development.

EDB key achievements

The Chief Executive of Bahrain EDB, HE Khalid Ebrahim Humaidan, presented the EDB's key achievements noting

a \$1.1 billion direct investment attracted in 2022. As of June 2023, the EDB attracted direct investments of \$1.1 billion, in line with the Economic Recovery Plan's goals that aim to attract more than \$2.5 billion in investments by the end of 2023.

The investments attracted for 2023, stemming from 42 investment projects, are expected to create more than 2,900 jobs for Bahraini citizens over the next three years.

Humaidan then reviewed Bahrain's economic indicators in the non-oil sector, which was the largest contributor to Bahrain's overall economic growth.

He indicated that the data showed that the Kingdom of Bahrain recorded an average annual nominal GDP growth of 8% over the last 20 years, in comparison to a world average

of 5.5% over the same period.

The data also revealed that the sector contributed 17.5% to real GDP, while the oil and gas sector contributed 16.9% and the manufacturing sector contributed 14%.

Humaidan also noted positive indicators regarding the Kingdom's real GDP growth for the rest of 2023.

The Minister of Industry and Commerce, HE Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, then presented the latest developments of the SME Development Board's strategic plan and highlighted key performance indicators that demonstrated a 14% growth, corresponding to an increase in the GDB from \$13.6 billion to \$15.4 billion of the SME sector between 2021-2022.

Fakhro concluded on initiatives adopted to increase SMEs' contributions to the national economy.

Providing Bahraini women tourism jobs, business opportunities



Al Sairafi with RUW officials and administrative staff

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The Tourism Ministry is keen to promote the promising job and investment opportunities provided by this important sector to female Bahraini students, graduates, entrepreneurs, and businesswomen.

This includes job opportunities in various departments of tourism establishments, such as administration and accounting, as well as in companies specialising in organising entertainment events, travel agencies, and others.

This was pointed out by Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaffar Al Sairafi as she visited the Royal University for Women (RUW) and met Professor Yusra Mouzoughi, RUW President and the University's Board of Trustees.

Professor Mouzoughi provided an overview of the programs, achievements and future plans of RUW.

They exchanged ideas on promoting the inclusion of

youth in the growing tourism sector, with a particular focus on women.

Al Sairafi praised the vision and mission of the RUW in graduating generations of pioneering Bahraini students across diverse academic fields.

She encouraged the university's students and graduates to explore business opportunities within the tourism sector and establish innovative projects and companies offering unique products and services in various fields.

The minister emphasised the tourism sector's welcome for the new generation of Bahraini women. She highlighted numerous success stories of pioneering women who have established their own establishments, such as restaurants and more.

Al Sairafi expressed her confidence in the exceptional capabilities of Bahraini women across various sectors and fields, she affirmed their potential to excel in the tourism sector.

'Manthan' Yoga Conclave-2023



On the occasion of the 9th International Day of Yoga, under the patronage of the Embassy of India in Bahrain, BICAS & PROP Yoga & Therapy Center jointly presented "Manthan" Yoga Conclave-2023 at Golden Tulip Hotel yesterday. India Ambassador to Bahrain, Piyush Srivastava, was present at the event. The main purpose of the conclave is to showcase the collective spirit, native skills and talent of Yogasana and sports from both countries followed by keynote speech from invited dignitaries and common yoga protocol practice. India Ambassador to Bahrain, Piyush Srivastava, was present at the event.

Works Ministry hands over NBB Multi Sclerosis Centre to Government Hospitals

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The Works Ministry has handed over the newly-built National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) Multiple Sclerosis Centre to the Government Hospitals.

Supreme Council of Health (SCH) President Lieutenant-General Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa patronised the handover ceremony, which was also attended by Works Minister Ibrahim bin Hasan Al Hawaj and Health Minister Dr. Jaleela bint Al Sayyed Jawad Hasan.

Also present were Government Hospital Board of Trustees' Board of Trustees' Chairman Shaikh Hesham bin Abdulaziz Al Khalifa, Government Hospitals CEO Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al An-

sari, Shaikh Mishal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa and NBB Head of Corporate Communications Hisham Abul Al Fateh and other officials.

The center is considered the first specialized and independent medical facility in terms of building and equipment for the treatment of MS patients Bahrain, which will contribute to providing the best diagnostic and treatment services.

It features seven outpatient clinics, wards for MRI diagnosis, physiotherapy, manual exercise therapy, in addition to private and public treatment rooms, a laboratory, pharmacy, a scientific research center, a lecture hall, medical warehouses, a service building, administrative offices and parking lots.