

CAPTAINS CORNER

Challenging the negative growth narrative



CAPTAIN MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

It has been a week of economic headlines for Bahrain and the news has been encouraging.

Last year, faced with a challenging slow recovery from the pandemic's impact, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, had outlined an economic recovery plan which included measurable goals.

These were built around the goals of job creation, streamlining trade procedures, implementing significant infrastructure projects, fostering growth in promising sectors, and promoting financial sustainability and economic stability.

Just in the past week, we have seen some of these goals hit the mark when the government announced approval of five projects as recipients of the sought-after 'Golden License' which gives the companies coveted 'fast-track' approvals in return for investments in Bahrain that brought in a total value of 1.4 billion US dollars. These projects are expected to create 1,400 new jobs over the next three years, contributing significantly to the priorities of the recovery plan.

Similarly, the approval of the 2023-2024 budget stands as a notable achievement in the collaborative efforts between the concerned authorities to prioritise economic stability and the strengthening of the partnership with the private sector.

Notably, the private sector workforce is being supported through advanced and diversified programmes, as the Minister of Finance highlighted. Rightly, there is an emphasis in increasing the capabilities and competitiveness of citizens through recognised Tamkeen-funded training.

The public-private participation is most apparent in the housing sector where 19 real estate companies and eight banks collaborated to present 10,000 properties during a recent property development and financing exhibition.

In tandem, the Projects Office in the Council of Ministers announced a government land investment platform, presenting nine new investment opportunities spanning agriculture, investment, and residential sectors, contributing to the targeted investments worth over \$2.5 billion. The government also offered 132 ready-to-sell modern housing units including the "Suhail" housing project in Al-Lawzi area.

Bahrain's achievements have been recognised by international entities, such as the Global Report of Emerging Enterprise Ecosystems, which positions Bahrain among the top 10 nurturing environments for emerging enterprises in the region.

Considering these accomplishments, it is natural to question the perspectives of those who harbor pessimism, discouragement, or criticism. As the great G.B. Shaw said, "It is impossible to progress without change, and those who do not change their minds cannot change anything."

(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)

The economic recovery plan is built around the goals of job creation, streamlining trade procedures, implementing significant infrastructure projects, fostering growth in promising sectors, and promoting financial sustainability and economic stability



Education sector's pillar of development: Edu. Min

UoB hosts Bahrain Teachers' College graduation ceremony

TDI | Manama

Education Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma highlighted His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's unwavering support for the education sector and its affiliates, given its importance as a pillar of development and a major tributary of progress.

Dr Juma also paid tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, whose constant support has contributed to achieving the national goals in this vital sector.

The minister was speaking as he attended the graduation ceremony of the Bahrain Teachers'



Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma at the event

College (BTC) for the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th batches (from 2017-2018 to 2019-2020).

Under the patronage of HRH

Prince Salman, the event was hosted by the University of Bahrain (UoB) yesterday.

The graduation ceremony for the Education Leadership Program (ELP) the Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE), and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) Programme is held at the Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa's Hall at the UoB on Sunday and Monday.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Dr Juma, who is also Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council, expressed thanks and appreciation to HM the King's Special Representative, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed

bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, for his special support for BTC, which was established to meet the kingdom's needs for national qualified teaching competencies.

The graduation ceremony coincides with BTC's success in obtaining the international accreditation from the US-based Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) for seven years, between 2023 and 2030, noting that the global achievement gives an additional academic value to its programmes and outputs.

Dr. Juma congratulated all the graduates, parents, board members and the administrative staff for their efforts to provide a suitable environment conducive for success, paying tribute for the academic staff for their endeavours to prepare qualified teachers.

As many as 11 batches, or 3,992 students, have graduated from BTC since its establishment in 2008, noting that the Education Ministry will accelerate the employment of the new batch of graduates.

The Education Minister honoured members of BTC Board of Directors, and presented the graduates with certificates.



The graduates are proud of their achievements

Stage set for first natural pearl auction tomorrow

TDI | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is set to host a groundbreaking event – the inaugural international auction of natural pearls.

This historic auction will take place at Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones's headquarters, located at the Bahrain

World Trade Centre in Manama. This highly-anticipated event will unfold tomorrow, showcasing the magnificence of natural pearls to a global audience.

The auction, initiated by the Rapaport Group in the US on June 7, has already traversed various cities within and outside the United States.

DANAT has been instrumental

in collecting, grading, and certifying the pearls. Only natural pearls will be offered for sale, and all will be certified as natural by DANAT.

On this occasion, Mrs. Noora Jamsheer, CEO of Danat Institute, said: "We eagerly anticipate collaborating with Rapaport International Group to foster the growth of the natural

pearl market. This endeavour aligns with the fourth objective of the national plan aimed at reviving the pearl sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain." sale on a regular basis. Bahrain has produced natural pearls for centuries as it is blessed with sea-beds fed by fresh water, an ideal setting for natural pearl growth.

Bahrain-Canada Friendship Group launched



Washington-based Bahrain Ambassador to Canada Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa attended the launch of the the Canadian-Bahrain Friendship Group. During the launch ceremony Senator Salma Atallahjan was elected as chair of the parliamentary group which includes also a number of Canadian Senators and members of the House of Representatives. The ambassador congratulated Senator Salma Atallahjan on her election, lauding long-standing Bahrain-Canadian relations, which spans 50 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties. He commended Canada's stances in support of global peace and security as well as commitment to security of maritime navigation through its participation in the joint forces, in line with the vision of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the follow-ups of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to reinforce cooperation.

BRCS Ambulance for Bahraini Hajj Mission



The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has assigned a fully equipped ambulance to accompany pilgrims from the Kingdom of Bahrain, following a yearly tradition that has been ongoing for 19 consecutive years. Mr. Mubarak Al-Hadi, the Secretary-General of the Society, commended the instructions given by His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Society's Board of Directors, to provide comprehensive ambulance services to Bahraini pilgrims. He emphasised the Society's commitment to utilise all its resources effectively in implementing these instructions.