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PAGE 18

Six new ministers join Cabinet PM pledges to continue development march

HIS Majesty the King, Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, issued Royal Decree No. 48 for 2002 yesterday on forming the new Cabinet. For the first time the government has introduced two posts of Deputy Prime Minister. Thus, Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa has been appointed as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Islamic Affairs, and Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

The Cabinet changes mainly affect the services ministries. Six new ministers have joined the government, four of whom have been assigned to the ministries directly related to providing services to citizens. The new ministers are known in academic circles for their competence and expertise. However, no woman was appointed to the Cabinet.

Most ministers have retained the posts they held in the previous government, in a trend that seems to affirm the policy of working with a harmonious team, even if the ministers have held their posts for many years.

Thus, in addition to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the ministers of Interior, Defence, Transport, Information, Finance & National Economy, Electricity & Water, Commerce, and Cabinet Affairs have all retained their posts.

Article two of the Royal decree provided the appointment of: Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa as Minister of Interior.

Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa as Minister of Transport, Jawad bin Salem Al Arrayed as Minister of Justice.

Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa as Minister of the Prime Minister's Court.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa as Minister of Defence, Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Mutawa as Minister of Cabinet Affairs.

Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa as Minister of Oil, Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh as Minister of Commerce, Shaikh Abdullah bin Salman Al Khalifa as Minister of Electricity and Water.

Abdullaziz bin Mohammed Al Fadhel as Minister of State for Shura Council and Chamber of Deputies Affairs, Abdullah bin Hassan Saif as Minister of Finance and National Economy.

Abdulnabi bin Abdullah Al Sho'ala as Minister of State, Nabeel bin Yaqoub Al Hamer as Minister of Information, Fahmi bin Ali Al Jawder as Minister of Works and Housing, Dr Mohammed bin Abdulghaffar Abdullah as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Dr Hassan bin Abdullah Fakhro as Minister of Industry, Dr Mohammed Ali bin Ali Shaikh Al Sitri as Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture Affairs.

Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi as Minister of Education, Dr Majeed bin Mohsen Al Alawi as Minister of Labour and Social Affairs.

Abdullhussain bin Ali Mirza as Minister of State and Dr Khalil bin Ibrahim Hassan as Minister of Health.

Continued on Page 2



His Majesty the King



Sh. Abdullah bin Khalid



Sh. Mohammed bin Mubarak



Sh. Mohammed bin Khalifa



The Prime Minister



Shaikh Ali



Al Arrayed



Shaikh Khalid



Shaikh Khalifa



Al Mutawa



Shaikh Isa



Ali Al Saleh



Shaikh Abdullah



Al Fadhel



Abdullah Saif



Al Sho'ala



Nabeel Al Hamer



Fahmi Al Jawder



Dr Abdulghaffar



Dr Hassan Fakhro



Dr Al Sitri



Dr Al Nuaimi



Dr Al Alawi



Ali Mirza



Dr Khalil Hassan

Ministers affirm cooperation



Shaikh Khalid



Ali Saleh Al Saleh



Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala



Nabeel Al Hamer



Fahmi bin Ali Al Jowder



Dr Hassan Fakhro

NEW and reappointed Cabinet ministers yesterday expressed their thanks to the Leadership for their trust, pledging to exert all efforts to serve the nation in view of the democratic reform projects characterising the new phase in the Kingdom.

The Minister of the Premier's Court, **Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa**, expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Majesty the King, **Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**, the Prime Minister, **Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**, and the Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, **Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**, for their trust.

"It is my honour on this occasion to renew my allegiance and to serve the Kingdom through any post and carry out any responsibility," the minister said. He thanked the leadership for their efforts that serve the citizens and the country's prosperity, adding that the parliamentary elections marked the beginning of a new phase for freedom, democracy and constructive work.

The Minister of Commerce, **Ali Saleh Al Saleh**, extended his thanks to His Majesty the King, **Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**, the Prime Minister, **Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**, and the Crown Prince, **Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**, for their trust in his person and re-appointing him the Minister of Commerce in the new Cabinet.

"I am greatly pleased with this re-appointment as the Minister of Commerce and hope to be worthy of their trust and up to the responsibility entrusted upon me. I will strive hard to make it a reality the hopes and aspirations of the commercial sector to take the ministry to higher grounds," he said.

Al Saleh expressed hope that cooperation between other ministries will further develop and enhance e-commerce to transform Bahrain into an economic centre in the region. This in turn will help Bahrain attract more international companies and increase direct investments in all economic sectors.

"I would like to point out that in this prosperous era we promise to work hand-in-hand with the consultative and legislative powers of the Shura and Parliament for what's best for the Kingdom," Al Saleh said.

The Minister of State, **Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala**, lauded the new appointed Cabinet highlighting that it was a mix of both previously experienced ministers and new blood.

"The new Cabinet has come to fulfil the requirements of the new stage. As the Cabinet comprises old and new ministers, the advantage arises that it will exert further efforts in the national duties to continue developing the country."

Al Sho'ala affirmed that complete coordination will continue in the framework of developing work in a clear way through strong cooperation with Parliament.

"The future is bright for the Kingdom especially after the great political changes. All sections of the community will begin to prosper and this will in turn benefit all loyal Bahrainis," he said.

The Minister of Information, **Nabeel bin Yacoub Al Hamer**, expressed his thanks and appreciation for the trust of His Majesty the King, **Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**, the Prime Minister, **Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**, and the



Dr Mohammed Al Sitri

Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, **Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**, for reappointing him a ministry for a second term.

He said that his duty in the ministry was a national responsibility he was committed to, adding that the formation of the ministry in the important phase represented a strategic turning point in Bahrain's history. "The new ministerial formation is the first after the resumption of parliamentary life and the beginning of a legislative era for the democratic life in line with HM the King's national project," Al Hamer said. "I believe that the ministry required specialisation, particularly in the economic and trade fields which are the pillars of the strategy for the coming phase," he said.

The minister said that the coming phase would focus on economic and investment developments to achieve human resources development and create more job opportunities for citizens. He said that the new phase would also include the completion of the legislative structure to attract foreign investment. Al Hamer said that the objective in this phase would be constructive work within the principles of the National Charter and the Constitution.

The Minister of Works and Housing, **Fahmi bin Ali Al Jowder**, was appointed the Minister of Works in 2001. He has 16 years experience in administration, planning, designing, supervision, and engineering projects, including housing, recreational and infrastructural projects.

Al Jowder's post included member of the Committee in charge of activating the National Action Charter, the Deputy Chairman of the Technical Committee in charge of the Bahrain-Qatar Causeway project, the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Traffic, member of the National Committee in Support of Al Quds, and the ministerial committee for public facilities, among others.

He was involved in the designing, implementation and supervision of many projects including Zayed Town, the BDF Hospital, and the construction of the Directorate of Military Works at the BDF.

Al Jowder, who was born in 1964, obtained a bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Bahrain in 1986, a master's in projects management from George Town University in 1994 and a diploma in information systems management in 1996.

The Minister of Industry, **Dr Hassan bin Abdullah Fakhro**, was HM the King's Adviser for Economic Affairs since May 1999. The minister's other posts included the Chairman of the National Committee for Organising Engineering Professional Practice, member of the Board of Trustees of the BCSR and the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Fakhro



Dr Majid Al Nuaimi

was also a member of the board of trustees of the University of Bahrain and the Gulf Polytechnic and the President of the Bahrain Society of Engineers for several terms.

The minister obtained his engineering and economic qualifications for his bachelor's, master's and doctorate in England and management diplomas in the US. He worked in the oil industry in Bahrain and in the US before being appointed by the Government to establish the Bahrain National Oil Company (Banoco) and eventually became the Chairman of its Board of Directors. Fakhro also took part in the establishment of Bahrain National Gas Company (Banagas) and was its Chairman for several years. He also took part in the founding of the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company and chaired the Board of Directors of Intoil E.C. and Intoil Inc. and its associate companies in the US.

The minister was Secretary-General of the Bahrain Philanthropic Society, member of the board of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society and Chairman of the Board of the Bahraini Society for Child Development. Fakhro takes active interest in oil, energy, economics and development matters. He has authored two books and lectured extensively in Bahrain and abroad.

The Minister of Municipalities and Environment, **Dr Mohammed Ali Al Sitri**, was born in 1950. He was the Director of Planning and Technical Affairs at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Al Sitri's other posts at the ministry included the supervisor of national affairs, the supervisor of planning and research and investigator of workers' disputes.

He has a doctorate in philosophy and master's in general management from the University of South California, a master's in Islamic Sharia'h from the University in Cairo, a diploma in development administration from the Institute of Management in New Delhi, a diploma in education from the Ain Shams University and a bachelor's degree in Arab language and Islamic sciences from Al Fiqh College in Iraq.

The Minister of Education, **Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi**, was the President of the University of Bahrain.

Dr Al Nuaimi, expressed his thanks and appreciation to His Majesty the King, **Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**, the Prime Minister, **Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**, and the Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, **Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**.

He said that the objective of the education process was to achieve further development based on the reform project which, he said, required constant efforts to promote education and affirm the strategies and programmes in line with the rapid global changes. The minister



Dr Majeed Al Alawi

said that such steps would ensure providing outstanding education opportunities to all Bahraini citizens.

Dr Al Nuaimi was born in 1955. He obtained a doctorate from Wales University in the UK. The minister's post included the Director of Offices of the Commander-in-Chief, the Chairman of the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research (BCSR) and the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defence.

He was the member of the Supreme Council in charge of preparing the National Action Charter, the National Committee in Support of Al Quds, the Consulting Bureau of the GCC Supreme Council, the Board of Trustees of the BCSR, the Supreme Council for Vocational Training, and the Bahrain National Committee for Education, Culture and Sciences, among others.

Dr Al Nuaimi has been decorated with the Isa bin Salman Order of Third Class, the Bahrain Order of Second Class, the Bahrain Order of Appreciation for Military Service, the Order of National Duty, the Free Kuwait Medal and Al Hawar Order.

The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, **Dr Majeed bin Mohsin Al Alawi**, expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Leadership for granting him the trust which, he hoped, the days would prove his competence and ability to carry out his duties.

Al Alawi said that many issues awaited him in the coming stage that had deep-rooted social dimensions such as unemployment and the employment programmes.

The minister said that he had a number of views and recommendations that could control the unemployment situation and stop it from escalating. "However, this would not be achieved without activating the channels of cooperation among various bodies in a manner that serves the citizens and the nation," he said, adding "we must benefit from the promising new stage that country is witnessing under the principles of democracy and openness that was initiated by the Leadership."

Al Alawi was born in 1955. He was the Secretary-General of the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research.

Al Alawi, who has a doctorate in international relations from the UK, was a member of the committee in charge of activating the National Action Charter, head of the sub-committee in charge of discussing the unemployment issue, and founding member and first Chairman of the Bahrain Society for Training and Development. He worked as a manager and general manager in three companies in the UK during his stay abroad.

He has authored a number of books including *The GCC, A Political Crisis* in 1985 and *Military History in the Middle East* which is expected to be released next month. Al Alawi also contributed many articles to *Al Sharq Al Awsat* (London), *Al*



Abdulhussain Mirza

Hayat (London), *Al Ayam* (Bahrain) and *Al Khaleej* (UAE).

Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza expressed his great honour on being appointed the Minister of State in the new Cabinet. "I am greatly honoured today to be appointed a minister of state and to serve my Government and country. I hope that I would be up to the responsibilities assigned to me."

Abdulhussain stressed that he would exert all effort in serving the country and contributing to the development process within the framework of the democratic reforms and openness the Kingdom is witnessing.

He lauded the great steps taken by the Government and said they are a source pride for all Bahrainis as Bahrain has set an example for everyone in the world to follow. "I extend my deepest thanks to His Majesty the King, **Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**, the Prime Minister, **Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**, and the Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the BDF, **Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**, for their trust in my person and for appointing me minister of state," he said. Mirza was member of the former Shura Council. He worked for Bapco around 40 years ago and during that time became a member of the company's Supreme Executive Council for more than 22 years.

The minister was the first Bahraini to be appointed Bapco's Deputy Chief Executive in 1998 and one of the first Bahrainis to be appointed General Manager in 1980. Mirza headed Bapco's offices in Madagascar, La Reunion, the UAE, Egypt and the US. He was the Chairman of the Bahrain Managers Society, a member of the Bahrain Accountants Society, the Supreme Council for Vocational Training, the Board of Trustees of Ibn Khuldon National School and the board of directors of the American Mission Hospital.

"It's an awesome responsibility, and I'll try my best to fulfil the trust that's been placed in me", **Dr Khalil bin Ibrahim Hassan** yesterday reacted to his appointment as the new Minister of Health.

"It was surprised that I'd been nominated to head this important ministry. I will do my best to further improve upon the excellent work my predecessors have set in motion," he said.

Dr Hassan said that Bahrain was one of the best in the region as far as medical facilities are concerned. "I'm very keen that we maintain the coveted position so that it benefits the people of our beloved nation."

Born in Manama in 1947, Dr Hassan completed high school at Manama Secondary School in 1965 and graduated seven years later from the College of Medicine, Damascus University. He finished his surgical training at the University of Edinburgh in 1978 and became a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in the same year.



Dr Khalil Hassan

After completing his training in neonatal and paediatric surgery from the University of Glasgow 12 years ago, Dr Hassan became a member of the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons in the same year. He returned to Bahrain and became the first consultant paediatric surgeon and the second in the Gulf region.

Dr Hassan is an associate professor of surgery at the College of Medicine, AGU and a visiting professor of surgery at the College of Medicine, Colorado University. He was also a visiting professor of surgery at the College of Medicine of the King Faisal University in Saudi Arabia.

Dr Hassan has served as the Chairman of the assessment and evaluation committee, College of Medicine, and Chairman of the accident and emergency department at Salmaniya Medical Complex. He also held the post of deputy chief of medical staff for training and education at the SMC and has been the President of the Bahrain Medical Society since 1983.

The new minister has presented 40 research papers at medical conferences in Arab countries, Europe and the US and published 50 medical research papers in Arab, European and North American medical journals.

Dr Hassan is a member of the International Society of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, the American Academy of Paediatric Oncology, the International Society of Surgery, the British Association of Paediatric Endoscopy, the International Society of Paediatric Minimal Invasive Surgery and the International Academy of Basic Science Medical Education.

Dr Hassan is married to Dr Salwa Al Mahroos and they have three sons and a daughter. Dr Hassan expressed his thanks and appreciation to the leadership for their trust, affirming that he would exert all efforts to continue the development of health services and facilities.

The minister said that his objective was to promote Bahrain as a model for outstanding healthcare offered to citizens, stressing the importance of developing medical tourism in cooperation with private health institutions to diversify the country's sources of income.

Dr Hassan said that the development of health service required cooperation of all ministries, the Chamber of Deputies, the Shura Council and the social and political institutions.

He said that the objective was to upgrade the standard of health services and provide every patient the right to healthcare and treatment. Dr Hassan said that the ministry would focus on promoting health awareness and developing primary health care, adding that his goal was to have a doctor for every Bahraini family who would be responsible for them at all times to create strong patient-doctor trust.