

## Programmes for 50,000 Bahrainis

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His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund, Tamkeen, issued directives to launch new programmes aimed at supporting 50,000 Bahrainis annually, the largest target since Tamkeen's inception.

The three main initiatives included in the programmes are the following: supporting the labour market by creating quality opportunities for new market entrants; supporting career development opportunities by ensuring Bahrainis remain the employees of choice within the labour market; and expanding enterprise support schemes to enhance

the private sector's competitiveness and role as a key economic driver, in line with Tamkeen's mandate.

This comes following the royal directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to continue creating quality opportunities for Bahriani citizens and the Cabinet's approval, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Tamkeen's Board of Directors meeting was held yesterday, chaired by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund, Tamkeen.

Tamkeen's Board of Directors meeting was held yesterday to discuss the programmes.

## Life sentence for participants in prison escape attempt



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The Court of Cassation approved a final life sentence for two defendants who participated in an attempt to smuggle inmates from the Centre for Correction and Rehabilitation.

Security services foiled their plan and 10 defendants were arrested, of whom the first court penalised three with life imprisonment. The remaining seven were penalised with seven years' imprisonment each. The court ordered the confiscation of a weapon intended to be used in the crime.

The incident began when security services received a tip that several terrorists had concocted a plan targeting the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre with firearms in order

to smuggle a number of life convicts. Secret sources were employed that confirmed the first defendant's plans.

The defendant developed his plan by communicating with the inmates and providing the means of transportation to smuggle them, as well as the firearm to be used. It was agreed that the inmates' role in the escape plan would be to cause riots and vandalism.

On the day of the incident, the first defendant parked his car at the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre's parking lot, according to plan. Aware of the scheme, security services had the suspect's car searched where a Kalashnikov assault rifle containing ammunition was found placed inside a laundry basket.

# 'Intensify GCC security cooperation, solidarity'

Muscat

Interior Minister, HE General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, called on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to intensify security cooperation and solidarity in the midst of the current operations in Gaza and the delicate situation in the region.

HE Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah delivered a speech as he chaired Bahrain's delegation at the meeting of the Interior Ministers of the GCC in Muscat yesterday.

"We should safeguard our unity, in the midst of the unfolding situation around us, and not allow attempts to cast doubt on our stances or disturb the security and stability of our nations



HE General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah at the event

to affect us," the minister said.

"This affirms the significance of coordinating mutual support for civil protection purposes among the GCC countries, in which the regional situation, security developments and the GCC principles require promot-

ing joint GCC security action."

Recognising the regional situation and security developments, HE Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah presented a proposal for a joint action strategy to address the growing cases of illegal immigration and their

connection to organised crime. The proposal aims to establish unified legal procedures to deal with this phenomenon effectively.

The ministers discussed topics aimed at strengthening joint GCC security cooperation. They were also informed about the recommendations of the specialised security committees.

They adopted the unified GCC tourist visa. They also endorsed a proposal to study the establishment of a joint GCC committee for law enforcement officials to combat corruption. They also agreed to complete the project to link traffic violations across GCC countries electronically.

Winners of the Prince Nayef Award for Security Research were also honoured.

## Regional forum on women and young entrepreneurs empowerment successful

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The regional conference of women's business and professional associations in the Asia-Pacific region, "Economic Empowerment of Women and Young Entrepreneurs," was concluded yesterday.

It was held in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry and Trade, with a remarkable international presence of delegations from

38 countries from around the world.

The conference agenda included a number of dialogue sessions, including a session on the economic empowerment of women through supporting entrepreneurship, in which Her Excellency Ms. Maha Abdel Hamid Mafeez, CEO of the Labour Fund "Tamkeen," spoke and she was interviewed by Ms. Afnan Al-Zayani, President of the Middle East Businesswomen's Network.



HE Mr Fakhro

In addition to sessions that highlighted women's success

stories of female entrepreneurs who achieved gender equality through leadership and partnership, and by eliminating poverty and providing social protection, in addition to success stories of young female entrepreneurs who achieved success through innovation and technological change in the digital age. The conference also included working sessions and meetings for the heads of associations of business and professional women.

## iGA holds workshop on use of AI tools

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The Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA), in collaboration with Microsoft, organised a workshop on harnessing low-code and no-code programming tools using artificial intelligence (AI) via Microsoft's platform.

Bringing together 100 IT professionals from governmental and semi-governmental entities in the Kingdom, the workshop showcased digital solutions and

features that support the development of government eServices and applications.

This workshop is part of the iGA's ongoing efforts to enhance government operations and services and support national initiatives aimed at accelerating digital transformation in line with Bahrain Vision 2030. Its goal is to make use of low-code and no-code software development tools, making the process of creating applications and websites faster and more efficient without the need



Workshop is about how to harness low-code and no-code programming tools using AI via Microsoft's platform.

for in-depth coding expertise.

This is intended to improve the efficiency of the public sector, boost productivity, and enable the rollout of additional digital government applications supported by Microsoft's Power Platform.

iGA Deputy Chief Executive of Operations and Governance, Dr. Khalid Almutawah underscored the government's commitment to adopting advanced technologies and digital solutions for its operations.

## BKS-DC International Book Festival to kick off today

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The highly anticipated International Book Fair and Cultural Festival, jointly organised by DC Books, India's leading book publisher, and the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS), is set to commence today at the BKS DJ hall in Segayya. The festival promises to be a remarkable celebration of literature, culture, and art.

The inauguration ceremony, scheduled for 8pm at the BKS Diamond Jubilee Hall, will be graced by the presence of esteemed guests.

"Indian Ambassador HE Vinod K. Jacob will preside as the Chief Guest, while the Director of Bah-



Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam officials speak about the event

rain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), Huda Sayed Al Abdulghafar Alalawi, will be the Guest of Honour," said BKS president PV Radhakrishna Pillai and General Secretary Varghese Karakkal in a statement.

The International Book Fair and Cultural Festival will run

from November 9 to 18, offering a platform for renowned writers, cultural icons, and political activists to engage with the audience. Distinguished figures such as PS Sreedharan Pillai, MA Baby, Sagarika Ghosh, Murali Tummarukudi, Santhosh George Kulangara, V.J. James,

Chef Pillai, MV Nikesh Kumar, Ravunni, and others will participate as guests on various days. As part of the event, a diverse array of cultural and artistic programs are also scheduled throughout the festival's duration.

To cater to the literary appe-

titude of attendees, the book fair has assembled a collection of over 100,000 books encompassing more than 5,000 titles from leading publishers in India and abroad. These offerings span genres like stories, poetry, novels, popular books, classics, reference materials, children's

literature, dictionaries, self-help books, study aids for competitive exams, spiritual works, cookery, travelogues, biographies, autobiographies, health literature, and various Malayalam-English publications.

In addition to the literary delights, a captivating photography exhibition, organised by the BKS Photography Club, is also scheduled to start today, running in parallel with the book fair. The BKS Fine Arts Club has arranged a community painting event planned to commence at 3pm on Friday. Over 100 participants, including prominent artists and painters from Bahrain, will collaborate under the theme "Art for Peace."