

Spiritual reflection and unity

His Eminence Dr. Shaikh Bandar bin Abdulaziz Ballila, imam and preacher in Mecca and member of the Council of Senior Scholars, led Friday prayers yesterday at the Ahmed Al Fateh Islamic Center Mosque in Manama. The gathering included a number of officials, scholars, and a large congregation of worshippers. During the Friday sermon, His Eminence emphasised the elevated status of benevolence in Islam, highlighting its deep connection to its noble faith. He also said that Islamic religion is a source of generosity and benevolence, representing one of the most perfect and sublime forms of worship. This event brought together the community in an atmosphere of spiritual reflection and unity, underscoring the significance of benevolence within the Islamic faith.



'Bahrain supports Palestinian cause'

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His Excellency MP Ahmed Sabah Al Salloum, head of the Parliamentary Division delegation, has affirmed Bahrain's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause.

MP Al Salloum made the statement as he took part in the Permanent Committee for Political Affairs of the Asian Parliamentary Association meetings held in Baghdad from November 9 to 12.

He emphasised the kingdom's commitment to calling for a ceasefire and a political solution in line with the two-state solu-



MP Al Salloum heads Bahrain's delegation

tion, international legitimacy resolutions, and the Arab Peace Initiative.

MP Al Salloum highlighted His

Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's stance on the Palestinian issue as a national priority, supporting comprehensive

peace efforts for a just solution.

He commended the royal directives to provide urgent aid to Palestinians through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and launch the "Rescue Gaza" campaign via the Royal Humanitarian Foundation.

Denouncing the Israeli bombing of Gaza, MP Al Salloum condemned the violation of international humanitarian law and the unjust siege imposed on Palestinians, resulting in a humanitarian catastrophe. He expressed concern over the dangerous turning point faced by Palestinians and the international community's silence.

Large turnout marks start of 'wilderness season' in Sakhir camping site



The start of camping season in Bahrain brings excitement as families eagerly set up tents and welcome the cold season

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The Sakhir camping site witnessed a surge in visitors as the wilderness season kicked off yesterday with thousands of citizens setting up tents and reserving spaces.

Al-Ayyam's lens captured the bustling activity as families flocked to the area since early morning.

The event, which com-

menced yesterday, will run until February 29, 2024, following a three-year hiatus.

The Southern Governorate facilitated registration through the "Electronic Camps" initiative via the "Al Janubiyah" app, offering a fully electronic registration and transaction service for approximately 3,387 camps. Registration closed early due to overwhelming demand, filling the designated camping spaces.

Labour sector cooperation

HE Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, Minister of Labour and Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA)'s Chairman of the Board of Directors received HE Alastair Long, the newly appointed UK Ambassador to Bahrain. The meeting reviewed the historic Bahrain-UK relations and means to enhance them, including in the labour sector and human resources development. The minister highlighted projects and initiatives to maintain the stability and growth of the labour sector, including procedures to maintain a healthy work environment; in addition to Bahrain's efforts in introducing legislations that protect workers' rights in accordance with international labour standards, and combatting human trafficking. The ambassador commended Bahrain's efforts in consolidating workers' rights and combating human trafficking, as well as its advanced ranking in this area. He also noted the role of laws and legislation which enhance Bahrain's position as an attractive investment destination.

Bahrain-UK relations

HE Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Affairs and Agriculture received HE Alastair Long, the newly appointed UK Ambassador to Bahrain. The minister commended the historic Bahrain-UK relations and the advanced cooperation between the two countries in various sectors, wishing him success in his duties. Ambassador Long affirmed his country's keenness to further enhance cooperation, wishing Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

Bureau report reveals 'safety concerns' in government buildings



Some government buildings have already initiated steps to address the problems about security and safety

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The Financial and Administrative Control Bureau report has brought to light alarming safety lapses in various government buildings.

The report highlights the absence of fire alarm devices in several key locations, including government hospital buildings, health centres, the University of Bahrain, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, the Capital Secretariat, and the three municipalities. Additionally, it notes the lack of fire extinguishing equipment in certain government agency buildings falling under its purview.

In response, governmental hospitals have acknowledged the need for safety improvements, particularly at the

Salmaniya Medical Complex. They have secured initial approval from the Ministry of Finance and National Economy to address these concerns and are collaborating with the Ministry of Public Works to implement a comprehensive maintenance plan, encompassing security and safety matters. Furthermore, primary healthcare centres are actively assessing safety requirements related to fire prevention and control, with plans to complete this inventory by the end of July 2023.

The University of Bahrain and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, the Capital Secretariat, along with the three municipalities, have also initiated steps to address the identified safety needs by procuring necessary equipment.

Education Ministry takes part in Unesco conference

● Bahrain supports global body's noble initiatives

Paris

Nawal Ibrahim Al Khater, Assistant Undersecretary for Policies, Strategies and Performance at the Education Ministry, has led the Kingdom of Bahrain's delegation participating in the 42nd session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) General Conference, held at Unesco headquarters in Paris from November 7 to 22, with the participation of 194-member states.

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, and Audrey Azoulay, Unesco Director-General, in addition to a number of international figures, ministers, senior officials, specialists and experts in the fields of education, science and culture, were present.

While addressing the conference, Al Khater expressed the kingdom's pride in its long-standing constructive and fruitful partnership with Unesco, especially in the field of education, which consolidated the role of the Unesco-King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Prize



Ms Al Khater speaks at the event

for the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Education.

She added that Bahrain commends Unesco's efforts aimed at improving the educational system, affirming the commitment of the kingdom, along with other member states, to supporting such endeavours to make education available to all peoples of the world and ensure its sustainability.

Al Khater reviewed the efforts made by the kingdom over the past period to develop education, including the restructuring of the Ministry of Education, the establishment of a unit to follow up on and develop the performance of schools, in addition to the implementation of the necessary plans and strategies to enhance teachers' professional development and teaching methods, as well as develop school curricula to keep pace with global trends.