

Finance Minister hails Bahrain-UAE longstanding ties

Dubai

Finance and National Economy Minister Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa hailed longstanding historic relations and solid cooperation binding the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and UAE President HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

This came as he met, in the presence of Central Bank of Bah-



Shaikh Salman meets the UAE Minister of State for Financial Affairs

rain (CBB) Governor Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj, UAE Minister of State for Financial Affairs Mohamed bin Hadi Al Hussaini.

The meeting was on the sidelines of the Seventh Annual Forum of Public Finance in the Arab Countries, which is held in Dubai.

Shaikh Salman stressed the importance of building on cooperation between the two countries in order to achieve common goals and interests.

During the meeting, he commended the UAE's hosting of the Seventh Annual Forum of Public Finance in the Arab Countries and the World Government Summit.

The two sides reviewed close fraternal relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE, and ways to enhance financial and economic cooperation for the benefit and development of the two brotherly countries and peoples.

Donations pour in for quake-hit Syria

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

After years of war and turmoil in Syria that has left millions displaced, the country now faces another crisis leaving thousands of people dead and trapped under buildings, where international aid has been slow to arrive.

Survivors of the 7.8 magnitude earthquake face freezing temperatures and horrific conditions after thousands have lost their homes, leaving survivors to camp in makeshift shelters on the streets.

If aid does not move quickly enough to provide relief and necessary items to those affected, many could be faced with a secondary disaster, resulting in more harm.

During a visit to the Turkish-Syrian border, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said that the Syrian people have a right to feel abandoned as they look for international help that hasn't arrived.

Relief efforts are complicated by years of a civil war that has deepened the divide, wreaked havoc amongst the population, and destroyed critical infrastructure.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Syrian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Mohammed Ali Ibrahim said: "Sadly,



A show of support for the Syrian people



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the most affected areas in Syria are located in Hama, Idlib, Aleppo, and Antakya."

He stated that Syria faced vulnerable times before the earthquake occurred, and now after the earthquake, it worsens its situation, and deepens the insecurity of Syria.

He called for international aid and modern equipment to rebuild the affected areas, as well as to provide rescue workers with the adequate instru-

ments to move rubble and those trapped beneath safely.

"Syria requires aid operations, equipment, and medical aid to provide relief to the country, which is already difficult as the country is in a vulnerable position with its economy currently," he said.

The Embassy requests baby products, canned foods, blankets, tents, clothes suitable for winter conditions, diapers, hygiene products, mattresses,

sleeping bags, flashlights, and thermos bottles.

"We are now in coordination with the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF), which will send first aid shipments to affected areas in Syria. RHF is giving its best efforts to deliver crucial supplies to victims of the earthquake, as soon as possible."

Understanding the gravity of the situation, all nationalities gathered at the Syrian Embassy to display their empathy towards victims of the earthquake. Hundreds from all around the country flocked to the Embassy dropping off blankets, clothes, food, and baby products to offer their support to the Syrian people.

Volunteers were seen loading trucks filled with donations to be delivered to Syria in the coming days, offering relief to the situation.

CPISP promoting 2024 scholarship program in public, private schools

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The Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program (CPISP) has launched a series of informative presentations across public and private schools to detail the opportunities of its 2024 scholarship program.

The CPISP representatives highlighted that the application period for its 2024 scholarship program will run from March 1 - 16, inviting students to submit their applications on the program's website (www.cpisp.bh).

Applicants who meet the program's criteria will receive an invitation by email for a series of tests to assess their English proficiency and critical reasoning abilities. The assessments are organised by the CPISP in cooperation with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF).

The CPISP criteria requires

applicants to have Bahraini citizenship, to be enrolled in the 11th grade (or equivalent), and to graduate from secondary school in 2024. In addition, applicants are required to have an accumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 97% or above.

During the scholarship's last stage known as "Candidacy Program", a minimum of 60 applicants will be selected based on the results of their qualifying tests and GPA. Of these 60 applicants, a minimum of 40 will come from public schools and 20 will come from private schools. This stage will involve training as well as preparatory courses for the IELTS and SAT exams. After this process, the final 10 scholarship recipients will be selected.

Scholarships will be allocated to three males and three females from public schools, and two males and two females from private schools.

Workshop on SDGs review begins

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The first consultative workshop highlighting Bahrain's Second National Voluntary Review for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) opened yesterday.

Sustainable Development Minister Noor bint Ali Al Khalifa opened the workshop, in the presence of Foreign Ministry Undersecretary for Political Affairs Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and UN

Resident Coordinator in Bahrain Khaled El Mekwad.

The second national review will be presented during the high-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will be held in New York City in July under the theme "Accelerating Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic and Full Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals".

The workshop targets the public sector.

Consolidating research efforts



Interior Minister, General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, received yesterday the outgoing International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Director-General and CEO, Dr John Chipman. Executive Director of IISS-Middle East, Lieutenant General (Retired) Sir Tom Beckett, and Deputy Public Security Chief, Major-General Dr Shaikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, were present. The Interior Minister expressed thanks and appreciation to Dr Chipman for the efforts he had exerted throughout his tenure, citing his contributions to consolidating research efforts and strengthening the kingdom's role and status regarding the organisation of strategic international conferences, such as the annual "Manama Dialogue", wishing him further success.

Al Sairafi hails tourism achievements



Tourism Minister chairs the BTEA board meeting

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Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaffer Al Sairafi has stressed success in exceeding the goals which were set within the 2022 strategy.

She stressed the importance of harnessing all efforts to achieve more tourism successes during the next stage to reach the goals of the economic recovery plan.

The minister made the statement as she chaired yesterday the board meeting of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

The 2022 tourism indicators exceeded the targeted performance results set in the tourism strategy 2022-2026.

Tourism revenues topped BD1.5 billion in 2022, an increase of 50% compared to the target figure for the same year,

which stood at BD1 billion.

According to the 2022 statistics, the number of visitors arriving for tourism purposes reached 9.9 million, up by 19% over the target number of 8.3 million visitors.

The average daily expenditure of tourists exceeded the target number by 10%, with a record of BD76 per visitor, compared to a target average expenditure of BD69.