

■ Bahrain official on causeway board

THE Prime Minister yesterday issued an edict appointing Brigadier General Basim Yaqoub Yusuf Al Hamer head of customs representing the government of Bahrain on the board of the general establishment of King Fahad Causeway. He will succeed Brigadier General Shaikh Khalifa bin Hassan bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa.

■ Premier's role hailed

EXECUTIVE Director of the UN human settlements programme Dr Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka appreciated the Prime Minister for his contributions to the programme through the Khalifa bin Salman Award. She highlighted the significance of the Premier's participation in the opening session of the 4th

World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China last November where he granted the award to the Green Brigades project of Burkina Faso. Her remarks came before the 23rd session of the programme currently being held in Nairobi. The meeting also hailed Bahrain's participation in the issuance of the Arabic version of a report on 'state of the world's cities 2008/2009'. It is a theoretical framework to understand the urban world. Nigeria's ambassador to the UN and chairman of the G-77 has also hailed the contributions of Bahrain to the UN programme.

■ Staff productivity in spotlight

HEALTH Minister Dr Faisal Al Hamer yesterday received International Ergonomics Association president Professor David Caple and discussed ways of enhancing employees' productivity. The IEA promotes inter-human interaction and understanding to optimise human well-being and system performance.

■ Astronaut meets students

MORE than 80 gifted students and 20 teachers yesterday met the German astronaut. Education Ministry Under-Secretary Dr Abdulla Al Mutawa also attended the event at the Muharrag-based Gifted Students' Centre. Centre director Dr Anisa Fakhro paid tribute to A9C Capital for co-ordinating the visit. A documentary highlighting the astronaut's activities and research was screened.

■ Bid to improve labour relations

THE Labour Ministry is working seriously to reinforce co-operation between workers and employers to consolidate the foundations of employee-employer dialogue, said labour under-secretary Jameel Humaidan. His remarks came during an open session he chaired after the conclusion of a seminar on labour laws and regulations which was held by the ministry for two days.

■ Team set for Afghan conference

DEPUTY Public Security chief Brigadier-General Tarek Bin Dayna yesterday headed Bahrain's delegation to the international conference on Afghanistan taking place at The Hague. Addressing the meeting, he said Bahrain is keen to take part in improving the security situation in Afghanistan, in co-ordination with its government and the UN.

■ Puppeteers to delight crowd

THE world famous puppeteers of the Salzburg Marionette theatre bring to life The Sound of Music for Spring of Culture audiences at 5pm tomorrow, Friday and Saturday. The performances will take place in the Culture Hall. The group is famous for its compelling drama and music presentations utilising elaborately costumed, two-foot tall, string-manipulated puppets and lavish sets. The performances are already sold-out, but selected groups can watch from backstage, witnessing up close how the puppeteers perform.

■ Seminar on city development

A SEMINAR entitled 'Strategy of developing cities in the Middle East and North Africa' concluded yesterday. It was organised by the Municipalities and Agriculture Ministry under the patronage of minister Dr Juma Al Ka'abi. More than 15 work papers were discussed in six sessions. Participants from Bahrain, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Syria, Tunis, Lebanon, Yemen, Oman and Morocco took part.

■ Floodwater removed

MORE than 444,000 gallons of floodwater has been removed from Riffa, Nuwairat and Al Ma'ameer areas. Five tankers managed to pump it out within 24 hours. Central Municipal councillor Walid Hijris said.



■ Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received a written message from his Malaysian counterpart Abdulla Badawi on modernising economic co-operation mechanisms by signing agreements. Malaysian Ambassador Sayyed Sultan bin Mohammed delivered the message.



■ Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa met German astronaut Thomas Reiter who briefed him about his visits to the Muharrag-based gifted students' centre and Bahrain University. The Crown Prince inquired about activities of the European space agency, praising Mr Reiter's space research. Crown Prince's court chief Shaikh Khalifa bin Dajj Al Khalifa and A9C capital chairman Dr Brent Hofer attended.



■ The Crown Prince and Economic Development Board chairman said yesterday that settlement of trade disputes should conform to international criteria and be based on Bahrain's legal mechanisms. Speaking to a delegation led by American Arbitration Association president William Slate, the Crown Prince stressed the need for Bahraini cadres to avail of international expertise in the field. Present at the meeting were Justice and Islamic Affairs Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ali Al Khalifa and the Crown Prince's Court chief.



■ Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa received a message yesterday from Sudanese presidential adviser Othman Ismael on bilateral ties and issues of common concern. It was delivered by Sudanese Ambassador Mohammed Abu Sin.



■ Interior Minister Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday met US Embassy charge d'affaires Christopher Hentzel and discussed bilateral relations. Public Security chief Major-General Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and assistant under-secretary for legal affairs Mohammed Bouhannoud attended.



■ Works Minister and Electricity and Water Authority head Fahmi Al Jowder yesterday opened Al Zallaq flyover and the two tunnels on Shaikh Khalifa Bin Highway in Hamad Town. The tunnels cost BD16 million, with the flyover costing BD6m. The first tunnel - parallel to roundabout 6 - is 780 metres long and the second parallel to roundabout 14 - is 770m.



■ Oil Minister and National Oil and Gas authority Chairman Dr Abdulhussain Mirza yesterday received Nasser Mohammed and Salem Al Rashdan who presented their book on His Majesty King Hamad.



■ Labour Minister Dr Majeed Al Alawi yesterday received Bahrain Co-operative Societies Union chairman Abd Ali Al Hammali who outlined efforts to train employees in Bahrain and abroad.



■ Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Nazar Al Baharna yesterday received outgoing Philippines Ambassador Eduardo Pablo Maglaya and hailed his efforts to promote bilateral co-operation.



■ Housing Minister Shaikh Ibrahim bin Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa yesterday received Jaffari Awqaf delegation headed by chairman Ahmed Hussain and discussed co-operation including developing villages. It has been agreed that the Awqaf uses land at its disposal to execute Al Qalaa and Hilat Al Abdalsaleh housing projects. The Housing Ministry will grant Awqaf land of an equivalent value in compensation.

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