



■ Deputy Premier Jawad Al Arrayed yesterday received new Jordanian Ambassador Mohammed Ali Siraj and discussed bilateral relations.



■ Interior Minister Lieutenant General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday received Hussainiya Processions Authority chairman and board members and discussed preparations for Ashoora. He hailed the role of the Hussainiya Processions Authority, urging its members to foil any attempt to spoil the spiritual occasion.



■ Culture Minister Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa yesterday received US Federation for Peace in the Middle East president Saly Kader and chief executive officer Ralph Kader and discussed the vital role of the think-tank in promoting understanding between Americans and peoples in the region.



■ Minister of State for Implementation Mohammed Al Mutawa yesterday received the new Jordanian Ambassador and stressed strong historic relations.



■ Parliament chairman Khalifa Al Dhahrani yesterday received Shura Council chairman Ali Saleh Al Saleh and congratulated him on his re-appointment. They discussed preparations for the first session of the third legislative term.



■ Assistant secretary general of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) Hala Al Ansari yesterday received the US Federation for Middle East Peace president and the chief executive officer and briefed them on the SCW's activities.

His Majesty receives thanks cable from Tunisian leader

HIS Majesty King Hamad yesterday received a cable of thanks from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in reply to a cable of congratulations marking his country's November 7 Change. His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa also received a thank-you cable from his Tunisian counterpart Mohammed Ghannouchi.

■ Suriname greeted

HIS Majesty yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Suriname's President Desire Delano Bouterse marking his country's National Day.

■ New cabinet praised

HRH the Prime Minister yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to his Jordanian counterpart Samir Rifai marking the formation of new cabinet.

■ School honoured

MUHARRAQ Secondary Girls School won the Award of Excellence

in recognition of its achievements in quality education.

The Quality Assurance Authority for Education and Training (QAAET) honoured the school following reviews of government schools' performance, including academic achievements, student development, teaching effectiveness, curricula development programmes, assessment methods, counselling, leadership and school efficiency.

■ Statistics unveiled

FEMALE employees in the public sector earn a monthly basic salary of BD670 on average against BD645 of their male counterparts, said Civil Service Bureau (CSB) Service Bureau (CSB) president Ahmed Al Zayed.

According to CSB statistics, the wage gap in the private sector is in favour of men, with them earning BD684 against BD400 by women.

The number of female civil servants this year represents 48 per cent of the total Bahraini workforce, with 17,132 women against 18,383 men, said Mr Al Zayed, reports our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej*.

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■ Survey and Land Registration chief Shaikh Salman bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday received Mohieddine Bahloul who presented his book Life Harvest.

UAE delegation visits Tamkeen

A UAE delegation led by Labour Minister Saqer Ghobash yesterday visited Tamkeen.

They were welcomed by chairman Shaikh Mohammed bin Essa Al Khalifa, who is also chief executive of the Economic Development Board, and a number of officials.

The visit is part of efforts to enhance co-operation in training and development programmes.

Areas of co-operation and aspects of human development programmes were discussed, with focus on Bahrain's labour market reform process and the results achieved.

Trade union hailed for key support

LABOUR Minister Dr Majeed Al Alawi yesterday received at his office a General Federation of Workers Trade Unions (GFWTUB) delegation led by secretary-general Salman Al Mahfoodh.

During the meeting, they discussed ways of enhancing co-operation between the ministry and the federation.

The minister praised the union for its co-operation to ensure the protection of the national and expatriate workforce.

He stressed that the strong relations with all the labour related parties had contributed in strengthening the trade union movement in Bahrain.

Readiness

Mr Mahfoodh expressed the readiness of the federation to co-operate fully with the ministry to strengthen dialogue and social partnership. Mr Mahfoodh also presented a shield to Dr Al Alawi.

Separately, Dr Al Alawi received British Council director Malcolm Gardine.

At the meeting, both sides discussed the possibility of co-ordination between Bahrain training councils and their British counterparts as part of preparations to restructure vocational training councils in Bahrain.

The two sides also discussed the possible contribution of the British Council in the University Graduates' Training and Employment Scheme.