

Royal greetings

HIS Majesty King Hamad yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to King of Swaziland Mswati III on his country's Independence Day.

Housing units ready

THE Housing Ministry will today start handing over units located in north east Muharraq to 609 beneficiaries, under the patronage of His Majesty's personal representative Shaikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa. A total of 406 units in Malkiya will be distributed tomorrow, followed by 350 in Jidhafs on Tuesday and 315 in Busaiteen on Wednesday.

Award deadline set

THE last date for receiving applications for nominations to Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award for Empowering Women 2013 is October 31, the Supreme Council for Women announced.

Empowering women

SUPREME Council for Youth and Sport first deputy chairman Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa will patronise a symposium 'Empowerment of Women' organised by Midpoint in collaboration with the Labour Ministry on September 24. Paula Reed will deliver the lecture.

Prime Minister praised

PARLIAMENT'S foreign affairs, defence and national security committee member Sawsan Taqawi has praised His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa for his directive to reconstitute the Price Control Committee. The move reflects the Premier's keenness to protect consumers' rights and prevent greedy traders from tampering with prices, she said. She urged the committee to exercise control over prices of essential goods and keep the public informed about results of studies and periodic revisions of prices as well as measures taken to reduce prices to meet budgets of low-income families. She also called on the Industry and Commerce Ministry to come up with real solutions to rising prices.

Conference panel meets

THE High Committee of the World Conference on Dialogue among Civilisations, to be hosted by Bahrain, held its second meeting under the chairmanship of Shaikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Khalifa. The panel discussed the conference's vision and mission, as well as the sub-committees' work mechanism. It also approved a proposal to set up a special committee in charge of formulating the forum's themes and goals, to be chaired by Dr Mohammed Hassan Kamelludin. Shaikh Khalifa said more than 15 international organisations, over 150 personalities and high-level delegations from many countries have expressed desire to attend.

Bahrain free of virus

BAHRAIN has not registered any case of the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus, Public Health Department director Dr Mariam Al Hajri said. She highlighted the Health Ministry's readiness to deal with any case and said an integrated system has been set up linking health centres to the public health laboratory to follow up suspected cases. Dr Al Hajri said the situation does not require any extra precautionary steps or strict health control measures at the kingdom's access ports. She said the ministry has taken all health and awareness measures before the Haj season, and called on all pilgrims to take vaccines available at all health centres.

Project to fight violence

MARKING the start of a new school term, anti-violence and addiction committee head Shaikh Abdulla bin Rashid Al Khalifa gave directions to officials and executive supervisors in charge of the "Ma'an" (Together) project to work on achieving its objectives. He highlighted that it will enable Bahrain's future generation to take optimum decisions for a life free of violence and addiction. The project covers 90 government and private schools, and 19 kindergartens, and benefits more than 50,000 students.

New academic year

BAHRAIN Polytechnic's new academic year begins today for more than 2,250 new and existing students enrolled in various programmes. New students attended two orientation days last week and were briefed on programmes, services and facilities provided by the Polytechnic. Academic staff also underwent two orientation sessions on regulations and various departments. Acting chief executive Dr Mohamed Al Aseeri and deputy chief executive Dr Hasan Almulla were present. Dr Almulla said a new 1,400sqm restaurant for students is ready, in addition to study halls, lounges and meeting rooms.

Gun trial adjourned

THE case of a Bahraini, who was allegedly caught in possession of a gun at Bahrain International Airport, has been adjourned to October 4 by the Third High Criminal Court to summon the defence lawyer. The 26-year-old defendant, who was returning from India, was reportedly stopped after an X-ray machine spotted an air pellet gun and 130 pellets in his travelling bag. He told the Customs officers he had bought the gun in India thinking it was a toy and kept it in his bag, reports our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej*.



■ Supreme Council for Youth and Sport chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) president Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa received Central deputy governor and former member of BOC's board of directors Shaikh Sabah bin Hamad Al Khalifa who presented his PhD on parliamentary monitoring of executive power in Bahrain's constitutional law, obtained from the Institute of Arab Studies and Research in Egypt.



■ Isa Town Co-operative Consumer Society held a ceremony to honour 246 children of members for their outstanding academic performance. Labour Minister Jameel Humaidan patronised the seventh annual event at the Isa Town Wedding Hall. Present were Central Governor Mubarak Al Fadhel, MP Dr Sumaya Al Jowder, Central Municipal Council chairman Abdulrazzaq Al Hattab, parents and guests. Mr Humaidan presented the students with prizes and gifts.



■ Municipalities and Agriculture Affairs Minister Dr Juma Al Ka'abi visited houses included in the cities and villages development project (Tarmeem) in the Central Governorate. Dr Al Ka'abi affirmed the ministry's keenness to implement the project in co-operation with the five municipal councils. Present were MP Adnan Al Maliki, Central Municipal Council chairman Abdulrazzaq Al Hattab, municipal council members and officials.



■ Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghanim Al Buainain received parliament second deputy chairman Shaikh Adel Al Ma'awda. He stressed the key role played by the legislative authority in co-operating with the government to ensure the country's progress and prosperity.



■ Dr Ali in talks with Dr Kharichi

Reforms highlighted

MINISTER of State for Human Rights Affairs Dr Salah Ali and his delegation met Palestinian permanent representative to the UN and Arab Group co-ordinator Ambassador Dr Ibrahim Kharichi on the sidelines of the 24th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva.

He said Bahrain is working on the implementation of recommendations of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, the UNHRC and National Assembly. The minister updated the Palestinian diplomat on UNHRC recommendations that have been implemented so far, adding that Bahrain would submit a voluntary progress report to the UNHRC next year for review. He said Bahrain has carried out 127 recommendations so far.



■ A chess camp concluded at the Golden Tulip. The closing ceremony was held under the patronage of His Majesty's adviser for youth and sport affairs Saleh bin Isa bin Hindi. Present were Royal Charity Organisation secretary-general Dr Mustafa Al Sayed and Bahrain Mind Sports Association president and MP Hassan Bin Eid Bukhamas. More than 30 people took part in the camp, including from Saudi Arabia. Certificates and prizes were distributed to participants and trainers at the event.



■ A certificate of excellence was presented to the Lost Paradise of Dilmun (LPOD) water park by TripAdvisor. The award, which honours excellence in hospitality, is given only to establishments and businesses across the world that consistently achieve outstanding traveller reviews on TripAdvisor. To qualify for the certificate, businesses must maintain an overall rating of four or higher out of a possible five, as reviewed by travellers. They must also have been listed on TripAdvisor for at least 12 months, among other criteria. LPOD senior public relations and marketing manager Cristina Fulgencio said the award coincided with the park celebrating its sixth anniversary. Above, LPOD employees with the award.