

## IN BRIEF

**Her Royal Highness thanked**

The CEO of the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance in Education and Training (QAAET), Dr. Jawahir Al Madhahki, has commended the role of Wife of His Majesty the King and Supreme Council for Women Chairwoman HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa.

Her Royal Highness had allocated an award in the name of the late Her Highness Shaikha Hessa bint Salman Al Khalifa, to boost voluntary and philanthropic deeds.

Dr. Al Madhahki told that the award bears a great moral value as it is related to a beloved personality in the history of the Kingdom.

**Meeting held**

The Committee, which is assigned the task of preparing for the launch of the document of civil society institutions on tolerance and religious and sectarian co-existence held its first meeting yesterday.

The meeting, chaired by President of the Bahrain Society for Tolerance and Religious Coexistence Youssef Buzaboon, focused on the protocol signed between the Bahrain Society for Tolerance and Religious Coexistence and Abdulrahman Kanoo Cultural Centre on the sidelines of the symposium they held on the 'Co-existence of Religions and Its Impact on Civic Peace.'

Chairman of the Abdulrahman Kanoo Cultural Centre, Ali Abdulla Khalifa, was also present on the occasion.

**Engineering projects**

Dean of College of Engineering at University of Bahrain (UoB), Dr. Nader Mohammed Saleh Al Bastaki said that 120 male and female students at the college have presented 37 graduation projects last Thursday for six engineering programmes.

He added that the majority of these projects were submitted by the students of Civil Engineering (17), followed by Mechanical Engineering (9), Power and Electronic Engineering (7) and Chemical Engineering (4).

**Meeting on research tools**

The Kingdom will host the meeting on applying the research tools, organised by the Gulf Arab States Educational Research Centre, from Jan. 20 to 22.

Director of the Centre, Dr. Marzooq Yousif Al Ghunaim, highlighted that the meeting includes five working sessions, and is attended by educational researchers from Ministries of Education from the member states, in addition to the Centre's experts.

**Film Festival**

The National Unity Film Festival, aimed to promote national unity, will continue until tomorrow, with the screening of 38 local films and 31 others from Arab and foreign countries.

The event was opened with an exhibition by Lebanese artist Tamara Ismail, which included original posters of classic Arabic films. Later, the Macedonian film 'Before the Rain,' depicting sectarian violence and political chaos in post independence Macedonia, was screened.

# CONSUMER FAIR OPENS TOMORROW

DT News Desk  
news@dt.bh

**B**ahrain's largest annual consumer products exhibition is all set to cater to Bahrain's diverse community with its opening tomorrow at the Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre (BIECC) at 11am.

The 'Autumn Fair 2014' of various designs and colours will be bigger this time, exceeding last year's number with a total of 750 exhibitors from 21 countries as compared to 700 exhibitors last year.

**Growth**

The organisers, Arabian

Exhibition Management, have said the show size has grown by 11 per cent this year and visitors can look forward to even more choices, new exhibitors, unique products and thousands of potential bargains.

The display of goods, ranging from speciality food, fashion, furniture, technology, toys, textiles and much more, will ensure a diverse audience at the venue. The fair attracts about 185,000 international, local and regional visitors, majority coming from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, every year.

Besides the huge variety of goods, an outdoor children's play area, a live band and costume characters will assure entertainment for the visitors.



A photo from last year's Autumn Fair.

Entry is 700 fils per person (can be purchased from the kiosks at the BIEC) and for children below five years of age, it is free of charge. Ladies only morning will

be held on January 26 and 27 and for timings and other details, one can visit website [theautumnfair.com](http://theautumnfair.com). The festival concludes on Jan 29.



Dr. Al Aseeri (middle) at the review session with the Polytechnic officials, senior academics, Bahraini industry representatives and professional accreditation experts.

## Polytechnic invites experts

Manama

**B**ahrain Polytechnic had invited an international panel of experts from several top universities to conduct a review of its Bachelor of Business programmes.

Chaired by Problem Based Learning (PBL) expert, Dr. Mark Vluggen from Maastricht University, two separate panels

comprising senior academics, Bahraini industry representatives and professional accreditation experts, conducted a validation exercise of the Polytechnic's Marketing, Management, Finance and Accounting programmes.

Dr. Mohamed Al-Aseeri, Acting CEO of Bahrain Polytechnic, said that the educational institution is

moving in the right direction.

"We challenge ourselves through external audit and we encourage advice from external partners," he said.

Dr. Al Aseeri added that two new bachelor programmes in Human Resource Management and Business Tourism will be introduced in the near future.

## Railway project maybe delayed, says minister

Manama

**B**ahrain's delayed causeway link with Saudi Arabia may not be completed on time and a joint study by the two countries will determine the deadline and funding by September, reported Bloomberg Business Week.

"The target is 2018; I'm not sure if we can achieve it, it's something we will identify at the end of the study in September 2014," Transport Minister and Acting Chief Executive of the Economic Development Board Kamal Ahmed quoted as saying in an interview at the Bahrain air show on Saturday.

"It's a critical project for us in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, we want it to happen as soon as possible but we're still at initial stages," he said, adding that the 2018 completion target is "very challenging" and that all the GCC countries are behind schedule.

## 23417 people use MoW website

Manama

**I**nformation Technology Director of Ministry of Works, Hisham Satir, has stated that a good number of people have used ministry's website [works.gov.bh](http://works.gov.bh) or the eGovernment portal [bahrain.bh](http://bahrain.bh) in last year.

According to him,

a total of 5056 people have used the website in the last quarter of 2013, while the total of users during 2013 amounted to 23417.

"The e-Government Programme, which aims to provide high quality services to citizens and residents by providing simple and easy to access



Mr. Satir

electronic services, has contributed to saving time," Mr. Satir said.

## 'High cost caused projects call off'

Manama

**M**inistry of Housing explained that the proposed Shehrakan and Bu Quwa housing projects were cancelled due to high costs involved in land acquisition.

Moreover, much space of Bu Quwa project had to be allocated for road network project of the Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Avenue. But alternative lands would be found to meet the housing demands in the Northern Governorate, the ministry

assured.

The Housing Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary Sami Abdulla Bu Hazza stated that the ministry, with the cooperation of General Directorate for Urban Planning, had conducted several studies for Shehrakan housing project and many plots were earmarked for the project. But the ministry decided to overlook the project because of high cost involved in land acquisition, he added.