



■ Manama Singers performed a concert, *The Last Seven Words*, by Theodore Dubois at St Christopher's Primary School in Saar yesterday. The event's musical director was Deborah Monsen, who joined the Manama Singers several years ago when assisting with former directors. Above, the singers during yesterday's concert.

■ Greetings cable sent

HIS Majesty King Hamad yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Senegalese President Macky Sall on his country's National Day.

■ Vote on quizzing

MPs will vote on questioning the Finance Minister when parliament convenes for its weekly session on Tuesday. The session will also discuss interpretation provided by the Legal Opinion and Legal Legislation Authority for the eighth article of the constitution, said our sister paper *Akhbar Al Khaleej*.

■ Amendment push

THE amended law on political associations will be on the agenda of the weekly parliamentary session on Tuesday. The proposed amendments ban activities which damage the national economy, threaten vital interests or fuel sectarianism, said a report in *Akhbar Al Khaleej*.

Under the amended law, the court may order dissolution of violating societies and liquidation of their assets. The amendments also ban political associations from using state-owned establishments, educational institutions, mosques or any other religious platforms.

■ Folk music show

THE Tree of Life, a natural wonder and longtime symbol of Bahrain, will provide a spectacular backdrop for a unique cultural performance of Bahraini folk music today at 6pm. The performance will mark the official opening of the Tree of Life Visitor Centre, a landmark project set to transform and preserve this uniquely Bahraini cultural asset for future generations.

■ Road safety talk

EURO Motors, in collaboration with General Directorate of Traffic, held a talk on 'unsafe driving and road safety' at

Bahrain Polytechnic in Isa Town. According to Traffic Directorate, Bahrainis account for 59 per cent of road traffic fatalities. Furthermore, statistics highlight that 77pc of drivers in Bahrain do not use seatbelts.

Even more alarming is the fact that 1,014 passenger injuries in road accidents were reported last year – almost three per day. During Euro Motors visit to the polytechnic, a survey was conducted among 300 students to understand their attitudes towards road safety. Statistics revealed that 32pc of the respondents admitted to not using seatbelts.

■ Business boost

THE number of Bahraini woman-owned commercial registers has topped 31,925, compared with 47,472 held by men, Industry and Commerce Ministry revealed in official statistics.

According to figures released by the General Organisation for Social Insurance, Bahraini women make up 33.5 per cent of the national workforce, up from 4.9pc in 1971. Average female pay also rose to BD757 in 2012 up from BD637 in 2007 in the public sector, while average salary increased from BD358 to BD477, said a report in *Akhbar Al Khaleej*.

■ Dialogue call

SHURA Council first deputy chairman Jamal Fakhro called for national dialogue to settle all pending internal issues.

In as statement to *Akhbar Al Khaleej*, he described dialogue engaging all parties as the only alternative to reach a national consensus. He rapped societies which boycott the political process and resort to street-pressure for their one-sided opinions to be accepted. He described the existence of religious and sectarian-based societies as the biggest aberration marring Bahrain's political scene.

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