

Royal support to people with special needs praised

Manama

Shura Council Chairman Ali Al Saleh stressed the care and support given by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to people with special needs.

He pointed out the continuous royal directives to serve this category, lauding the facilities and services provided by the government, led by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and supported by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy



Mr Al Saleh with other Shura members at the book launch.

Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

This came during the launching ceremony of a book on the legislation and resolutions related to people with special needs, yesterday.

The ceremony was attended by Shura Council members as well as Presidents and representatives of associations and private institutions.

The book is considered as the dividend of the recommendations of "We Work Together to Achieve Legislative Aspirations" conference which was held by the Shura Council on

July 3 and 4.

The Shura Council Chairman praised people with special needs, stressing keenness to build on the kingdom's achievements in serving this category by passing laws and modernising legislation to achieve their aspirations.

He lauded the efforts of the committee in charge of carrying out the recommendations of "We Work Together to Achieve Legislative Aspirations" conference, under the chairmanship of lawyer Dalal Jassim Al Zayed, the Head of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee.

Bahrain Health Regulatory Conference 'a big success'



Dr Shaikh Mohammed, Ms Al Saleh and Dr Al Jalahma with international speakers at the event.

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The recently concluded Bahrain Health Regulatory Conference witnessed a huge success, where more than 700 participants from different specialisations in healthcare sector attending workshops, lectures and panel discussions that focused on the status, challenges and future plans in the health regulatory sector.

The first edition of the conference came under the slogan "Safe and High Quality Health Services" and under the patronage of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Health Lieutenant General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

The conference was organised on November 28-30, 2019, at the Gulf Hotel Bahrain. It was organised by the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) and featured 37 high-calibre local, regional and international

speakers who have rich experience in various fields of the health sector.

The speakers addressed 24 of the vital regulatory issues and topics in the sector throughout the three days of the conference. This included the regulations of health facilities, health advertisement, alternative medicine practice, medical equipment and pharmaceutical establishments.

Additionally, the speakers cast light on other regulatory sides of the health sector in Bahrain and the region, such as artificial intelligence in healthcare, medical complaints data and resolutions and decrees that are related to the health sector. The conference also included an exhibition that was held on the sidelines of the event and continued throughout the three days, showcasing various stakeholders.

Attending the opening ceremony on the first day were the

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DR AL JALAHMA

event's patron Health Minister Faeqa Al Saleh, Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan, Conference Chairperson and NHRA CEO Dr Mariam Al Jalahma, and representatives of the Supreme Council for Women and the Labour Fund (Tamkeen), in addition to a number of diplomats, senior officials, chief guests, dignitaries and stakeholders in the health sector in the Kingdom and the GCC.

Commenting on this occasion,

Dr Al Jalahma said: "The conference will become a significant landmark in Bahrain and the region. After the positive feedback we received we will plan the second version to expand on the workshops and external speakers to ensure the maximum benefit and exchange of experience."

The participants and attendees were granted Continuing Medical Education (CME) hours that are certified by NHRA for taking part in the different activities at the event.

Attendees of the conference were granted a total of 30 CMES, while those who attended the workshops were granted four CMES per workshop, and those participating with presentation posters were granted one CME per poster.

A specialised workshop on cross infection and prevention in healthcare facilities was also held, and the attendees were granted six CMES.

Tamkeen's support to private sector firms reached over 'BD700m'

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Pradeep Puravankara

Labour Fund Tamkeen's latest statistics has revealed that the value of private sector support since its inception in 2006 has reached over BD700 million.

Tamkeen stated that the total value of financing provided through programmes in co-operation with partner banks from 2007 to October 2019 stood at BD 736.4m.

Tamkeen's programmes have included more than 225 initiatives to support individuals, benefiting more than 183,000 individuals.

These support programmes provide to support the entrepreneurial environment in the Kingdom, and encourage the diversification of income resources in the national economy.

The fund is keen to provide a package of programmes and initiatives in various stages of the organisation's growth, from the start-up phase and through the start-up phase to the stage of developing projects and expansion phase, where programmes include supporting business development by covering 50 per cent of the cost of materials and services approved.

The number of institutions supported by the financing programme reached more than 8,170 with a value of more than

1,83,000
individuals have benefited from the support schemes initiated by Tamkeen.

BD 516m while 112 institutions were supported under the "Tamweel+" programme with a value of more than BD 211m.

"Tamweel+" targets medium and large enterprises, with a minimum finance volume of one million dinars and a maximum of two-and-half million dinars.

As part of its programme for women entrepreneurs, Tamkeen has supported more than 220 women entrepreneurs.

The business development programme comprises eight key areas of support such as consultancy, marketing and identity, machinery and equipment, quality management, exhibition participation, information and communication technology, accounting and auditing and cloud computing.

In partnership with local banks, Tamkeen is keen to provide financing solutions to small, medium and micro enterprises. The amount of financing ranges from BD500 to BD10,000.

CBB reports 10pc increase in money supply

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According to a recent official data released by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), there has been an increase of 10 per cent in money supply, which reached BD13,631.3 million at the end of October 2019, compared to BD 12,389.2 million the same period last year.

In addition, the total outstanding balance of public debt instruments which includes Development Bonds, Treasury Bills, Islamic Leasing Securities and Al Salam Islamic Securities stood at BD 12,045.4 million at the end of October 2019, an increase of 2.6 per cent compared to its level of BD 11,739 million in October 2018.

The data also indicated an increase in the total balance sheet of the banking system from USD 191.6 billion at the end of Octo-

ber 2018 to USD 203.7 billion at the end of October 2019, an increase of USD 12.1 billion, or 6.3pc in the 12-month period.

The total value of outstanding loans and credit facilities provided by retail banks amounted to BD 9,794.9 million at end of October 2019 compared to BD 9,376.8 million at the end of October 2018, an increase of 4.5pc.

This amount includes loans and facilities provided to the business sector amounting to BD 5,194.2 million at the end of October 2019 compared to BD 5,022.8 million at the end of the same period last year, an increase of 3.4pc.

The data shows that credit card and debit card transactions across Point of Sales terminals amounted to BD 206.8 million in October 2019 compared to BD 186.2 million in October 2018; marking an increase of BD20.6 million or 11.1pc.

Urdu Day marked



The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) Urdu Department Celebrated Urdu Day (Yaum-E-Urdu) 2019 in vibrant colours at the ISB Jashanmal Auditorium in Isa Town Campus. The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest S M Hussaini (CEO Almoayyed Computer Middle East) and Guest of Honour Mohammed Rafeeq Akolvi (GSA Manager for Gulf Air Cargo, KSA) in the presence of ISB Asst Secretary Premalatha N S, EC Members Mohammad Khurshheed Alam, Mohammad Nayaz Ullah, Principal V R Palaniswamy, Staff Representative Johnson K Devassy, Vice-Principal Anand Nair, teachers and students.