

National Day preparations reviewed

Southern Governor Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa yesterday received a number of officials and citizens at the Governorate Majlis. The Governor highlighted the Governorates' keenness to participate in the national celebrations, calling on citizens to take part to express their loyalty to the homeland. He said a variety of activities would be organised to accentuate the Bahraini custom and heritage art. He paid tribute to the security efforts that contributed to the success of the elections 2018. The audience congratulated HH the Governor on the national celebrations, expressing delight in participating in them.

Towards a plastic-free Bahrain

As per the MoU, efforts will be on to popularise the use of Sain Bags

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The Bahraini authorities plans to ink a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indonesian Embassy to reduce plastic consumption in the Kingdom.

As per the MoU, efforts will be on to popularise the use of Sain Bags to contain the excess use of plastic bags.

Speaking to Tribune, Hardiyono Kurniawan, First Secretary for Economic Affairs at the Indonesian Embassy said, "The embassy plans to introduce Sain Bags manufactured by an Omani-Indonesian company.

"These eco-friendly bags are wholly made in Indonesia.

"The company was started in January 2018 by Indonesian PT Saesha Global and Omani Sain Bags, with an aim to reduce the waste created by plastic bags.

"Sain Bags is extremely pas-



Concerted efforts are needed to tackle plastic waste.

sionate about living greener, looking to make a difference, determined to fill the gap for organic, fully compostable bags promoting themselves in a green-

er, more eco-friendly way."

"At the moment, the company is pleased and proud to introduce the 100 per cent biodegradable and compostable bag to the MENA

region. The company hopes that soon they will see the end of plastic as more eco-conscious consumers carry around biodegradable and compostable bags."



Over the past few years we have had companies from Bahrain who are collaborating with companies from Indonesia to develop eco-friendly products.

MR HARDIYONO

"In this reference, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Manama will host Signing of a Co-operation Agreement between Sain Bags with Bahrain based company by the name of 3MH Trading Company on 8th of December 2018 at The Chancery of the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia."

"Moreover, even though this is a co-operation at the business level the Embassy of Indonesia

is extremely happy to support this initiative. We believe that individuals need to start looking at the changing need of plastic and how they damage the environment."

"Over the past few years we have had companies from Bahrain who are collaborating with companies from Indonesia to develop eco-friendly products."

"We are very optimistic and look further to more business and manufacturing business collaborations to all level. The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Manama will always support the effort in preserving environment and sustainable development either at every level.

"Furthermore, the Embassy wishes that this co-operation can serve as benchmark in bilateral collaboration between the two brotherly countries in tackling environmental issues at business-to-business level," Mr Hardiyono added.

Focus on technology to protect temperature sensitive shipment

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

Technology that delivers an innovative solution for protecting temperature sensitive shipment is one of the innovations under Brinc's IoT accelerator programme.

An IoT-based solution for issues faced for the cold chain logistics is one of the innovations from the teams under the Brinc's accelerator programme.

This was announced during a demo day held recently where three teams under the accelerator pitched their innovative IoT products to regional and international investors.

One of the teams under Brinc, Kenddah, traces temperature-sensitive shipments in real-time and notifies supply chain managers to prompt action during the shipping process.

Founded by Mohammad Shakhathreh and Abdallah Alawneh, the IoT device uses roaming cellular connection to inform the concerned parties through automated SMS, emails, and recorded calls when the temperature of a shipment exceeds the specified limits.

Other teams that pitched dur-



EDB Managing Director Simon Galpin speaking during the event.

ing the demo day were Zerek Technologies and Kanoq. Zerek Technologies designs and manufactures IoT products for enterprises, connecting workers of enterprises to decision makers using sensing, computing and analytics technologies. Kanoq offers data-driven safety monitoring solutions in industrial applications like oil pipelines and autonomous vehicles.

Founded by Eyad Al Nuweiri and Ahmed Shalash, the infrastructure platform Nervius connects all assets in oil and gas operations

Brinc, an international preseed accelerator, manufacturing management provider, and

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MR YASIN

distribution platform based in Hong Kong with offices in Barcelona, Guangzhou, Bahrain, and Poznan.

In July 2018, Brinc launched in Bahrain, offering investment,

education, mentorship, services, prototyping tools and co-working space start-ups.

"We are interested in any sort of start-ups that are doing IoT based products. Our focus is to help them with market validation, financial outlook and also their technical side. Brinc is now four and half years old, we have looked at 5,000 applications and taken into our pre-programme about 150 of them and we have invested in 48 companies and by the end of this year will be almost 65," said Yasin Aboudaoud, Chief Development Officer and Head of Brinc MENA had previously told Tribune.

Study cites efforts by GCC govts to end gender disparity

Manama

A recent research study revealed that women in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States share some commonalities with women in other cultures, such as experiencing a lack of time and opportunities, often valuing relationships over creative work, and prioritising endeavours that put the family first.

The study pointed out that "women in the Gulf region have their own unique challenges related to their social context. Difficulties in travelling without permission from their families, limited opportunities for training and skill development, lack of social support, and not being able to make major decisions in their life--such as whom they are going to marry - are just a few examples of challenges faced by GCC women."

The study cited the "efforts that have been made by the GCC governments in the last two decades to offer social support for women". This support includes creating or modifying legislation to increase women's engagement in society. For example, Saudi women were recently allowed to drive for the first time in history. Another facet of governmental support is evident in the establishment of official



institutes to ensure equal opportunities for women.

It pointed out that "GCC governments have made great effort to ensure equal opportunities for women in education and scholarships; therefore, it is not surprising that women comprise about 60 per cent of the graduates from Gulf universities".

However, despite this support for women's education, women in the GCC represent only 25pc of the labour force, according to the World Bank. "As in some Western countries, women's underrepresentation in the work force is largely due to parent's expectations for their daughters; that is, women should get married and have children."

In nutshell, women in the GCC have more support now than ever; they are highly educated, although society might not fully and directly benefit from its investment in women's education due to some cultural expectations, the study said.