

**Bahrain receives three Arab awards for excellent government projects**

Bahrain was honoured during the second session of the Arab Government Excellence Award (2021-2022), which was held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo. The Kingdom's Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, and Ministry of Education each won an award. The Health Ministry won the Best Arab Government Project Award to develop the health sector through the "telemedicine and therapy" project. The Justice Ministry won an award for its "computerisation of Bahraini courts and the complete transformation from a paper system to an electronic one" project. The Education Ministry won an award for its "My Digital Library" project, which was selected as the best Arab government project to develop education. Above, representatives of the ministries receive the awards.

# Planting seeds for an 'eco-friendly future'

Rotary Club of Salmaniya works to promote education of sustainable farming and living

● Projects organised to encourage locally grown produce in the Kingdom

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

The Rotary Club of Salmaniya has partnered with various societies to carry out projects regarding sustainable farming, supporting the environment, education of farming, educating beneficiaries, and to encourage locally grown produce in the Kingdom.

The club has been helping communities in Bahrain for more than 50 years now.

It focuses on seven areas, namely basic education and literacy, disease prevention and treatment, water sanitation and hygiene, community economic development, maternity and child health, supporting the environment, and peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

The greenhouse project, sustainable farming program, and the permaculture educational program aimed to support the environment and basic education of farming. Additionally, these projects aim to promote zero waste life, as well as promote and encourage the local farming economy.

Hasan Al Mansoor, President of the Rotary Club of Salmaniya, told The Daily Tribune: "We have demonstrated that local farming is possible and we encourage others to participate in sustainable living in the Kingdom."



Participants, including children, take part in Rotary Club of Salmaniya's various activities and projects



He further expanded on the projects, adding: "The Rotary Club of Salmaniya organised the yearly service project (the greenhouse project), and we invited beneficiaries from the Bahrain Down Syndrome Care Center, Al Rahma Center, and The Friendship Society for the Blind to plant seeds of various crops in the greenhouse."

"The Khalid Janahi Charity has always been kind enough

to provide the greenhouse and helpers to plant the seeds. This project has helped educate and encourage participants in the process of farming and sustainable living."

For the permaculture initiative, The Rotary Club of Salmaniya and Learn to Grow jointly organised a holistic farming educational activity day for the beneficiaries of Dreams Society and the Friendship Society for

the Blind with support from the newly chartered Rotaract Club of Muharraq.

Hasan said: "The program is a hands-on activity designed for children to interact with nature and learn about permaculture as well as plants and animals located in Bahrain."

"Activities include community circles, art workshops, and a music movement. The event ended with the attendees waving the Bahrain flag in celebration of the National Day."

They also organised the sustainable farming project for children with cancer and survivors of cancer in January 2022.

Children were able to enjoy a full day of activities which included learning about planting, feeding the farm animals, and harvesting vegetables from the farm.

Hasan said: "The children are members of the Dream Society and Smile of Bahrain, in which both societies were very supportive of this project."

"We are grateful as Jasra Or-



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ganic Farm was kind enough to offer their venue for the event and provided vegetables to all attendees."

Faisal Juma, vice president of The Rotary Club of Salmaniya, told The Daily Tribune: "The aim of these projects is to engage with all members of our society in the process of farming. We want to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in all our projects."

"We also aim to educate the beneficiaries regarding farming and preserving nature to showcase the natural beauty that Bahrain has to offer."

## Kingdom supports humanitarian and charitable programmes

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Social Development Minister Osama bin Ahmed Al Asfoor has affirmed the Kingdom's interest in humanitarian and charitable work by supporting various voluntary initiatives and meet societal needs in various fields.

Al Asfoor was speaking as he participated in the humanitarian and charitable work award-distribution ceremony in its third edition, organised by Tree Of Life Charity Society.

He praised the award's aims in establishing charitable and voluntary work and spread and strengthening the concept of volunteer work culture as a national and humanitarian responsibility ever since its first establishment.

The Minister highlighted the support of the ministry and its keenness to organise charitable and social work as a sector parallel to the efforts of government and private institutions and the importance of community partnership between various sectors, for the success of charitable and development initiatives in the Bahraini society.

He stressed the importance of improving development programs and projects implemented by civil society organisations to develop its sustainability and keeps pace with social changes.

## Saudi deal on Haj arrangements

Jeddah

Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Minister, Nawaf bin Mohammed Al Maawda, has signed an agreement on this year's Hajj arrangements with Saudi Haj and Umrah Minister, Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah, as part of the Ministry's early preparations for the Haj season.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the Haj and Umrah Expo and Conference (Haj Expo 2023), held here under the patronage of the Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Prince Khalid Al Faisal, Governor of Makkah Al Mukarramah Region.



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- HASAN AL MANSOOR, ROTARY CLUB OF SALMANIYA PRESIDENT