

## Forum focus on Health Insurance Project

Manama

Under the patronage of President of the Supreme Council of Health, Lieutenant-General Dr Shaikh Mohamed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Kingdom will hold the first Business Development Forum and Fair in healthcare sector (BDFEX) on October 23 and 24.

Dr Khalid Bumtaie, CEO of Proact International Consultancy, revealed that the BDFEX Forum provides an opportunity to introduce the latest national initiatives aimed at strengthening the health sector, these include the National Health Insurance Program in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which aims to improve the quality and efficiency of health services.

In a statement, Dr Bumtaie explained that this forum focuses on the role of implementing the health insurance project in attracting more investments and health facilities that provide quality services and specialties to the health sector system in the Kingdom, especially as the health insurance will provide patients with a number of treatment options and medical facilities.

He said that the forum, which witnesses a wide Gulf participation, will discuss the ideas of health insurance and discuss the best experiences and practices of the Gulf in this area, praising the efforts exerted by the Supreme Council of Health to implement this pilot project, especially since the public and private sector will be providers of health service.

Dr Bumtaie said that the forum will address the most important solutions, ideas and innovations in the field of pharmaceutical industry and health and medical supplies in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in particular, and achieve drug security and attract foreign investment, in order to support the implementation of the National Health Plan.

# No Bahraini citizen injured in Karbala stampede, says envoy

31 deaths have been reported by the local authorities in the Iraqi city

● The stampede occurred during one of the rituals performed during this season known as the "Tuwairij run".

● Over 100 pilgrims were injured in the stampede.

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No Bahrainis were injured in the fatal stampede that occurred among pilgrims in the Iraqi City of Karbala on Tuesday and caused the death of more than 30 pilgrims, it has been confirmed.

The Bahraini Ambassador to Iraq, Salah Al Maliki stated that no injuries or deaths were reported among the Bahraini pilgrims, who were in Karbala to take part in the annual 'Ashoora' commemoration.

The ambassador said the embassy has been closely following up on the mishap, which took place near the shrine of Imam Hussain on Tuesday.

He said that the embassy has been co-ordinating with the Iraqi Interior and Health Ministries to ensure the safety of Bahraini pilgrims, adding that none of them has been admitted to hospitals there.

As reported yesterday, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims take part in the Ashoora commemorations in the City of Karbala.

The stampede occurred during one of the rituals performed during this season known as the "Tuwairij run", which sees pilgrims run down streets leading



People evacuate an injured man in Karbala on Tuesday.

to the Imam Hussein Mosque in commemoration of the run from the ancient village of Tuwairij to Karbala.

A total of 31 deaths have been reported by the local authorities, while more than 100 pilgrims suffered injuries.

The cause of the mishap hasn't been confirmed yet, as some Iraqi officials said it happened after one of the pilgrims "slipped and fell" causing the others to stumble down on each other, while another report claims that a part of the walkway collapsed.

In 2005, more than 900 pilgrims died in a stampede that occurred in Karbala during the Ashoora commemoration season.

Meanwhile, in the Kingdom, this year's Ashoora season was a remarkable success as a result of intensive efforts made by author-

said.

The administrations of four governorates also worked along the ministries to secure the conducting of Hussainiya processions.

Sources said there was a high-level of co-ordination between community police, the General Directorate of Traffic, Civil Defence and National Ambulance services, which ensured the safety of all during the season.

"Co-ordination meetings were also held between the head of ma'atams and senior officials of security and service departments to establish necessary mechanisms for ensuring safety."

The Shura Council expressed its thanks and appreciation for providing all facilities for "the success of the events in the framework of promoting love and respect among the people of Bahrain".

The council stressed that the guidance of the wise leadership and the great care it has given to religious rituals have paved the way for the success of the Ashoora season.

“No Bahrainis were injured in the fatal stampede that occurred among pilgrims in Karbala.”

MR AL MALIKI

ities concerned and related organisations.

The co-operation between different ministries, mainly the Interior and Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, and Health also contributed to the success of the religious occasion, the ministry sources

## 6,000 new students begin academic journey at UoB

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The President of the University of Bahrain, Prof Dr Riyad Hamza, urged some 6,000 new students to earnestly pursue their academic achievements.

This came during a speech delivered by the President of the University at an orientation session meant for welcoming the students.

"It is a cherished occasion for us all to welcome each year a new batch of high school graduates. The Kingdom's leadership and the co-operation with all sectors of the society has strengthened the position of the University of Bahrain in various fields," he said.

"Knock the doors of knowledge that have been available to you, from the distinguished faculty members, frequently visit the library that has a large number of books and databases, and to the authoritative sites on the Internet.

"We are today in the era of huge information, and we have to deal with them very smartly. This is your language, and this is your future, whatever your specialty."



Prof Hamza

Prof Hamza also addressed the parents who came with their children, asking them to provide extensive support in their academic endeavours.

For his part, the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Osama Abdullah Al Jowder, delivered a speech, in which he addressed the students to take note of the rights and duties.

"Every student is guaranteed respect and dignity, so the University of Bahrain, like any other respected university, has regulations for student conduct, which I invite you to read carefully, to learn about your rights and the rights of others, and the duties and responsibilities and discipline."

He urged new students to knock on the doors of their professors and increase their exper-

tise in specialised subjects.

"Your main and ultimate goal of your presence at the University of Bahrain is learning."

The Vice President for Academic Studies, Prof Dr Waheeb Issa Al Nasser, presented the regulations and laws of academic discipline that ensure the students to pass these academic years with excellence and without academic difficulties.

Dr Al Nasser urged students to remain committed to all academic regulations that prevent them from falling under the threat of academic warning and then the final dismissal from the university.

During their tour of the exhibition held by the Deanship of Student Affairs in Hall 18 at the University's headquarters in Sakhir, the new students were introduced to all the facilities they need to help them achieve their achievements during the study.

Today, the university will welcome new students in the faculties of Business Administration, Law, Information Technology, Applied Education and Bahrain Teachers College as part of the Academic and Service Preparation Programme.

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