

Award ceremony to be held today

Manama

Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, a grand ceremony will be held today to honour the laureate of the fourth edition of the Isa Award for Service to Humanity.

The "Isa Award for Service to Humanity" is a highly valuable award as it carries the name of the late Amir, HH Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, who had been dedicated in the humanitarian field, and promoted his country's image as a beacon of communication in the charitable and humanitarian fields.

The importance of this edition of the biennial award stems from the fact that it is still unique in its field compared to other well-known Arab awards, being the first Arab award in the humanitarian service.

It also builds on the outstanding success of the past three editions which covered different geographical regions, and honoured individuals and institutions with acclaimed field work among the needy patients and needy.

The laureates of the previous editions were Malaysian Dr Jemilah Mahmood, the President of the "Mercy Malaysia" foundation, Dr Achyuta Samanta, the founder of the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology in India, and the Children's Cancer Hospital Egypt.

In June this year, the Board of Trustees of the Isa Award for Service to Humanity, chaired by Deputy Premier HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, announced that "EDHI Foundation" in Pakistan as the winner of the fourth edition of the Isa Award for Service to Humanity (2018-2019).

The award was given following recommendations by the International Jury, which selected the EDHI Foundation after shortlisting several qualifiers from different countries.

Bahraini firms urged to focus more on innovation, creativity

HRH the Crown Prince inaugurates 18th ABIC Conference

● HRH the Crown Prince expressed his appreciation to the BCCI for its efforts in organising ABIC.

● The Crown Prince highlighted that innovation and creativity safeguard the resilience of the national economy.



HRH the Crown Prince at the conference in the presence of Deputy Premiers, House Speaker and Shura Chairman.

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Abhitab Kumar

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday asked Bahraini firms to focus more on innovation and creativity. This came as HRH the Crown Prince inaugurated the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference (ABIC).

Held under the patronage of HM the King, ABIC brings together decision-makers to accelerate investment in entrepreneurship and innovation, fast-tracking digital transformation.

Upon arrival HRH the Crown Prince was welcomed by the Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), Sameer Abdulla Nass, and a number of BCCI board members.

HRH the Crown Prince reaffirmed that high levels of innovation have led to increased opportunities for citizens and greater economic diversification, in line with the vision of HM the King.

HRH the Crown Prince reiterated that Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 has enabled the Kingdom to build on its strengths, increasing investment flows and

driving sustainable economic growth.

HRH the Crown Prince stressed that Bahrain will continue to implement initiatives and reforms that strengthen the business environment, enhance the Kingdom's global competitiveness, and support the development of innovative business models.

The Crown Prince went on to note that innovation and creativity safeguard the resilience of the national economy while supporting sustainable economic development.

In this regard, HRH the Crown Prince noted that the Kingdom had recently introduced legislation to keep abreast of global trends in IT infrastructure, creating promising new opportunities for citizens.

Later, HRH the Crown Prince highlighted Bahrain's ongoing success as a host for international events, particularly those related to innovation, adding that events like ABIC enable national enterprises to compete on a global level.

HRH the Crown Prince concluded by expressing his appreciation to the BCCI for their efforts in organising ABIC, wishing all participants success.



Mr Nass

For his part, the Chairman of BCCI delivered a speech in which he recognised legislation, education, and IT infrastructure as essential pillars of the digital

economy, and noted the importance of establishing research centres to accelerate the region's transformation from a consumer to a competitive developer.

Mohamed Abduljabbar Mahmood Alkooheji, second vice-chairman of BCCI, had earlier said: "Bahrain is a leading example of a business-friendly nation with no free zone restrictions, 100 per cent foreign ownership for a majority of activities and low operating costs. As the first GCC nation to move away from its dependence on oil, Bahrain is today the region's most

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HRH THE CROWN PRINCE

diversified and sustainable economy and leading financial hub."

He added: "The focus of the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference is on the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on the Arab world and the BCCI is delighted to invite representatives from all over the region and the world to explore the possibilities, challenges and most efficient ways of adapting this revolution to obtain a dramatically improved future."

Task forces formed to tackle 'rain chaos'

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In anticipation of the rainy season, task forces are being created in order to combat the possible troubles caused by rain, it emerged.

The government hopes to avoid water logging issues caused by rain during the rainy season, it is learnt.

Heavy rains have caused water logging in Bahrain in the previous years but the government is now taking more measures to avoid repeating such experiences.

"A team will be dedicated to each governorate when the rainy season begins," a source from the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning said.

Reportedly, the Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Essam Khalaf has ordered the teams to be ready for the rainy season to tackle all issues.

Recently, the ministry had met with municipal council members where the rainy season was a strong point of discussions.



Spells of showers caused misery to many in Bahrain last year.

The ministry officials have assured that measures are being taken to avoid inconvenience caused by rain.

Water logging is a big concern when the Kingdom receives rain. Spells of showers caused misery to many in Bahrain last year and earlier this year.

Tribune reported last year how some residents of West Riffa suffered due to rains.

The residents of said they did not any receive any help from authorities despite floodwaters entering houses, destroying shops and vehicles in the area.

However, the authorities had to

work hard to attend cases of water logging around the country.

The Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry said it received 1,000 calls from flooded neighbourhoods in the first four hours of rain that lashed the Southern Governorate and other parts of the Kingdom on October last year.

The ministry also confirmed that some of those cases were referred to the Civil Defence Directorate within the Interior Ministry and 33 water suction tankers were deployed that day to clear floodwaters.



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