

# Hamad Town service centre's gold classification highlighted

Manama

Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister, Essam Khalaf, has expressed the pride of all municipal sectors' affiliates in the honouring of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, of the Northern Municipal Service Centre in Hamad Town.

The centre was among the eight government services centres awarded by HRH the Crown Prince for having received gold classification under the second edition of the "Taqeem" service evaluation programme.



Mr Khalaf and Mr AlQaed hold the Gold Category Shield.

The minister noted that the win will stimulate the centre to develop customer services, in general, and municipal ones, in particular.

Minister Khalaf made the statements during a ceremony to place the Gold Category Shield at the Northern Municipal Service Centre in Hamad Town.

The CEO of the Information and e-Government Authority (iGA), Mohammed AlQaed, Municipal Affairs Undersecretary, Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the Director General of the Northern Area Municipality, Lamia AlFadhlah, and the employees of the Northern Municipal Service Centre in Hamad Town were present.

## NATO-Arab ties 'growing' Brussels

The close partnerships between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Arab countries have contributed to an improved regional security, a senior official of the alliance has said.

"As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Istanbul Co-operation Initiative ICI and the 25th anniversary of the [Mediterranean Dialogue] MD, I noted that NATO's partnerships have allowed us to progressively enhance our political dialogue and practical co-operation," Alejandro Alvargonzalez, NATO Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Security Policy said.

"This has contributed to improve regional security to the benefit of all countries involved," he said at a luncheon hosted by Kuwait's Ambassador to NATO Jasem Al Budaiwi Brussels-based Arab Ambassadors, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Alvargonzalez highlighted the importance of cooperative security for NATO, which is one of its main three core tasks along with collective defense and crisis management.

NATO launched the Mediterranean Dialogue in December 1994 with countries in North Africa and Eastern Mediterranean. It currently involves seven non-NATO countries.

The Mediterranean Dialogue's overall aim is to contribute towards regional security and stability through stronger practical cooperation, including by enhancing the existing political dialogue, achieving interoperability, developing defence reform and contributing to the fight against terrorism.

It also seeks to achieve better mutual understanding and dispel any misconceptions about NATO among Dialogue countries.

The ICI, launched at the NATO summit in Istanbul in June 2004, aims to contribute to long-term global and regional security by offering Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries practical bilateral security co-operation with NATO.



The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the State of Kuwait, Salah Ali Al Malki, extended his utmost congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and to the Bahraini people, on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the National Action Charter. This came during a ceremony held by the Embassy of the Kingdom in co-operation with Lulwa Al Binali, the Cultural Attaché of the embassy, marking the anniversary of the National Action Charter, which falls on February 14 of each year.

## 'NAC opened doors for ties with global organisations'

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Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive, Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, on behalf of all iGA employees, congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, and the Bahraini people, on the National Action Charter, celebrated on

14th February each year.

Mr AlQaed said: "The anniversary of the National Action Charter referendum is a celebration of the commitment of the Kingdom's leadership to improving the lives of citizens. It is a memory close to the hearts of all in Bahrain, and was an important stage of transition, allowing the country to move towards an era with greater freedom and development in a range of areas, including the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) field.

"These changes have been felt in the development of eServices



Mr AlQaed

in the Kingdom, and their mechanisms, which are among the gains that have been realised thanks to

the vision and directives of the Kingdom's leadership, and its efforts to implement systems and legislation aimed at benefiting the public, and to provide an environment conducive to attracting foreign investment from companies offering highly advanced technologies."

Mr AlQaed pointed out that the benefits of the National Action Charter include the opening of dialogue with global ICT organisations. Working with these organisations has given the Kingdom the opportunity to improve its capabilities through the exchange

of technical information. It has also motivated the Kingdom to launch innovative solutions and speed up the pace of the digital transformation of government services.

He added that on this anniversary, the iGA and all its stakeholders renew their pledge of loyalty to the directives of the leadership in its march towards digital transformation. Mr AlQaed expressed his pride in all that has been accomplished under the guidance of the kingdom's leaders, and wished further development and prosperity to all.



Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan received Nuwaidrat Charity Society Chairman Abdunabi Jassim and discussed co-operation to promote social solidarity to benefit citizens in the Kingdom. The meeting which was attended by board members focused on developing services provided by the ministry for services. The two sides also discussed the services and programmes being provided by the association for all social categories. The minister commended the contribution of social society institutions in serving development projects, reiterating the ministry's support to all initiatives in compliance with the law on NGOs in Bahrain.



The Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Brussels celebrated the anniversary of the National Action Charter (NAC). On the occasion, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of Denmark, and representative to the European Union and NATO, Dr Bahia Al Jishi, extended her utmost congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister. She noted that this occasion reflects the rich history of the Kingdom, highlighting an era full of achievements at various levels. The ambassador emphasised that the National Action Charter is considered a tangible expression of cohesion between the people and their leadership.