

## Team to evaluate medical qualifications

Manama

Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Supreme Council for the Development of Education and Training, His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, has issued Edict 1/2020, forming a work team on evaluating medical qualifications obtained from Chinese universities.

Under the edict, the Chinese Universities' Medical Qualifications Evaluation Team will be chaired by Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Ansari (Supreme Council for Health), and comprise the Chairman of the National Committee for the Evaluation of Academic Qualifications at the Ministry of Education, Dr Fawzi Abdulrahman Al Jowdar, Chief of the Health Professions Regulation Office at the Nation-



HH Shaikh Mohammed

Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) and Dr Leena Mohammed Al Qassim, as members.

Members also include the Chief of Medical Services at the Salmaniya Medical Complex, Dr Nabeel Ahmed Al Asheeri, Dr Khalid Abdulghaffar (BDF Hospital), Dr Dalal Hassan Al Hassan (King Hamad University Hospital), Dr W Kingham (RCSI Medical University of Bahrain) and Dr Abdulhaleem

Dhaifallah (Arabian Gulf University).

The team shall evaluate the non-accredited 77 qualifications obtained by Bahraini students from Chinese universities, separately, to determine their level and decide the requirements, if any, to complete the accreditation process in Bahrain or abroad.

It shall also submit recommendations on the 77 qualifica-

tions within two weeks.

The team shall also co-ordinate with local and regional universities and devise a unified placement exam for the graduates of non recommended universities so as to enable them to complete the required academic and clinical content at other recommended universities, which will pave the way for them to accredit their current qualifications.

# Kingdom 'supporting China' to solve face mask shortage

Bahrain's support for China reflects 'depth of friendship between both nations'

Chinese officials expressed their thanks to the Kingdom for its great and continuous efforts to enhance relations between the two countries.

Each province is responsible for formulating differentiated epidemic prevention and control strategies based on their own conditions.

Beijing

Bahraini Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Dr Anwar Alabdulla, delivered a batch of protective face masks provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China due to the outbreak of the new Coronavirus in a number of Chinese cities, which led to a high number of infections and deaths and an increase in the needs of individuals for protective masks and other requirements for protection and personal hygiene.

Officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Red Cross expressed their great gratitude and sincere thanks to the Kingdom of Bahrain for its support to China in confronting this virus and the whole nation is combatting in all available ways and means with the assistance of all friendly countries in the world, Dr Anwar said. They also appreciated the King-



The demand for face masks is huge in China, say media reports.

dom of Bahrain's support for the People's Republic of China in its current severe predicament, stressing that this reflects the depth of friendship and co-operation between the two friendly countries.

They expressed their thanks to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain in Beijing for its great and continuous efforts to enhance relations between the two countries and raise them to wider levels in various fields.

Face masks were out of stock at many pharma stores across the Kingdom as people began buying them in large numbers over coronavirus fear.

The shortage is attributed to declining supply and increasing demand in the Kingdom.

Speaking to Tribune, a pharmacist manager, who doesn't want to be named, said: "We have a huge shortage of face masks as

China is confronting this virus and the whole nation is combatting in all available ways and means with the assistance of all friendly countries in the world.

DR ANWAR

we sold out our stocks in the last two days.

"Though no cases are reported in the Kingdom, people here are taking special caution and a good number of them are wearing face masks, which is one of the ways to prevent being infected."

He said masks were being imported from China and the supplies have declined owing to huge demand in that country.

"If you see, the Chinese author-

ities have asked everyone at risk to wear face masks. The demand is vast as China is the largest populated country in the world," he added.

However, on the contrary, there were also many reports on media, which states there are not enough evidences to suggest that wearing a face mask has any benefit for the general public.

Meanwhile, Chinese authorities have stressed differentiated measures for different regions to fight the novel coronavirus outbreak at a high-level meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang.

The leading group of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus outbreak also demanded efforts to improve patient treatment and expedite research on drugs.

Epidemic prevention and con-

trol in Hubei Province, particularly in the capital city of Wuhan, remain the top priority, said the leading group headed by Li, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

While ordering Wuhan to speed up hospital admission and suspected case quarantine, the leading group instructed hard-hit cities in Hubei such as Xiaogan and Huanggang to carry out equally strict measures as in Wuhan in surveillance, quarantine and treatment.

The demand for more medicines in Hubei and Wuhan should be fulfilled, and the departure channels of the city and the province need further control, according to the meeting.

Multiple steps such as spacing out return trips have prevented large-scale flows of people after the Spring Festival, said the meeting.

Each province is responsible for formulating differentiated epidemic prevention and control strategies based on their own conditions, according to the meeting.

No one-size-fits-all approach should be taken and unfair and extreme practices must be corrected without delay, said the meeting.

Effective drugs and treatment are the key to contain the epidemic, the meeting noted, stressing more studies on the nearly 6,000 cured cases to improve treating plans.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of speeding up the clinical trial of drugs.

Wang Huning, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and deputy head of the leading group, attended the meeting.

## Bilateral political talks held Berlin

The fifth round of political consultations between the UAE and Germany began on Thursday.

The Emirati delegation was led by Dr Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, while the German side was led by Andreas Michaelis, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office, UAE News Agency (WAM) reported.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways to strengthen joint co-operation and addressed regional and international developments.

Dr Gargash emphasised the importance of the consultations in strengthening bilateral cooperation and exchanging views on issues of common priority.

He pointed out that the UAE's approach is characterised by its credibility and realistic outlook. He also stressed the importance of continuing political interaction, saying that the two countries' views on regional and global issues are aligned.

Michaelis commended his country's strong ties with the UAE and the close co-operation on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The Emirate of Sharjah has been collaborating with the European business community across several sectors including trade, culture and tourism over several years.

As of November 2019, the number of European companies registered in Sharjah include 423 from France; 396 from Germany; 148 from Belgium; 96 from Spain; 86 from Portugal; 92 from Switzerland; and 18 from The Netherlands.

These numbers continue to grow due to the Sharjah government's pro-investor policies and strategic budget allocations.

For instance, out of the approved 2019 budget of \$9 billion for Sharjah, 23 per cent has been dedicated to the development and improvement of its infrastructure, and 41 per cent has been committed towards the economic development sector.

## Public employee jailed for demanding bribe

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a public employee to five years behind bars for accepting BD2,000 in bribe from a construction company.

According to court files, the employee, who was serving in the Ministry of Works, was offered bribe by the construction company to get away with a violation.

It's claimed that the construction company fixed lights in a project for the ministry not in accordance with an agreement signed between the two parties.

Changing them would cost the company a whopping BD18,000 and the employee of the ministry jumped to seize this opportunity and demanded to be paid to pass the violation.

The defendant was arrested red-handed while taking the

money from the company.

"He called me and offered me his help to get the violation approved. He requested BD2,000," the manager of the construction company said.

"I directly informed his superiors and I was requested to give him the money in an effort to have evidence against him," she added.

The defendant was also fined BD2,000 for his crime.

## Royal support to charity work praised

Manama

Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Work and Youth Affairs, National Security Advisor and Board of Trustees Chairman of the Royal Charity Organisation (RCO) His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa lauded the royal support to charity and humanitarian work in Bahrain and abroad.

He also praised support of the government under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

HH Shaikh Nasser was speaking during a celebration held by RCO on the occasion

of its winning the award of Best Arab Charity Organisation which is granted by the International Federation of Arab Achievers.

He stressed that the accomplishment reflects the care accorded by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to charity and humanitarian work, particularly supporting the widows and orphans in the Kingdom of Bahrain.