

Holy Quran Grand Prix concludes



Winners with officials during a photocall

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The 24th edition of the Bahrain Holy Quran Grand Prix, co-organised by the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments and the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA), concluded

yesterday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

A total of 3370 contestants from various age groups participated in the 24th edition of the award. It was held last night at the Ahmed Al Fateh Islamic Centre in the presence of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endow-

ments Minister, Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

SCIA President, Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa and the Justice Minister and Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Undersecretary, Dr Farid bin Yaqoob Al Mef-tah, honoured the winner of

the award, Yahya Bilal Yussef, from Morocco, other winners, the jury and all relevant parties.

The Justice Minister affirmed that the award has contributed to enhancing the teaching and memorisation of the Holy Quran across Bahrain and abroad.

Bahrain's customer satisfaction exceeds global average: report

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Bahrain exceeded the global average in 'General customer satisfaction' by recording a satisfaction level of 78.1 per cent on the index.

"General customer satisfaction index has reached 78.1pc, according to the US model and scale, thus exceeding the global average in this field," said the survey conducted by e-Government Authority (iGA) and University of Bahrain.

Survey results were revealed during a meeting of the Supreme Committee for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Chaired by president and Deputy Premier HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

The Customer Satisfaction survey further found that around 93 per cent of the Bahraini public is well aware of the electric services provided by various government authorities in the Kingdom.

It, however, pointed out that only 88pc are aware of the 'level of their use'.

The meeting also reviewed a report on the efforts exerted by the Information and e-Government Authority (iGA) to strengthen cybersecurity in the public sector.

In this context, the deputy premier stressed the importance of the "Thiqa" programme in promoting the best standards and practices in the field of information security, preparing human competencies, building the capacities of government departments.

The committee was also briefed on the progress of the implementation of "Sehaty" (My Health) application. The deputy premier stressed the importance of devising a comprehensive plan to develop protection and response systems to address cyberattacks aimed at targeting countries' facilities, national security and vital interests.

Man dies of heart attack

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Premnath Ramiah, a 50-year-old Indian national, passed away yesterday morning after suffering a cardiac arrest,



in the Salmaniya Medical Complex.

Hailing from Tamil Nadu, India, he was a Civil Engineer at Aref Sadeq Design Consultants.

Lane closures announced

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The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning has announced improvement works on Khalifa Al Kabeer Highway at Mu-harraq.

"This necessitates the closure of slow and middle lanes at its junction with Abdul Rahman Al Fadel Avenue for traffic going to Arad," said a statement jointly issued by the General Directorate of Traffic at the Ministry of the Interior.

One lane on the highway will be provided for traffic movement.

The closure will be effective from Thursday at 11:00 p.m. to Friday at 11:00 a.m.

eTransactions jump 38pc

Electronic financial transactions in the Kingdom recorded a 38 per cent jump in the first quarter of 2019 compared to year-earlier quarter.

Figures showed that the number of electronic financial transactions exceeded 32 million, compared with Q1/2018.

This came as the meeting reviewed the main e-Gov-

ernment statistics during the first quarter of 2019. Statistics showed that the total number of electronic transactions had exceeded 361,000. The report revealed an increase in the use of smart applications by 17pc, as well in the overall number of active e-services through the national portal and mobile phones to reach 378.

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Death sentences upheld in policeman murder case

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The Supreme Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the death sentences and conviction of two men who killed a policeman and wounded several others in a highway ambush.

The Supreme Criminal Court's decision upheld a lower court's decision in the case of a five-member terrorist gang, who was convicted in the 2017 murder of policeman Salman Anjam by detonating explosives.

The latest decision follows two appeals filed by the suspected against the death sentences issued against them.

The Court wrote that the evidence presented at trial was sufficient to support the murder conviction and death penalty awarded to the two for the incident occurred on October 27, 2017.

According to court files, both the men received military training on manufacturing explosives and using firearms in Iran in 2011.

The appellants are members of a five-member terrorist gang that was involved in a series of attacks that targeted security forces vehicles.

Investigations led to identifying the two appellants and another member of the same gang.

Evidence before the court proved that they were involved



The appellants were responsible for the killing of policeman Salman Anjam in 2017



The defendants targeted public security vehicles using explosives

in planting bombs on main roads and detonating them when public security vehicles pass by.

The suspects were convicted in 2017. They were both handed down capital punishment

and ordered to pay BD500 fines each.

Others got sentences varying from life in prison to seven years in jail. The court also ordered to strip all involved of their citizenships.