

Deal set to boost Bahrain's 'entrepreneurial landscape'

Tamkeen signs MoU with OSMEP to foster collaboration

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● The two parties also discussed the aims and objectives of the Thai Expo SME One Fest held in the Kingdom.

Manama

The Ambassador of Thailand to the Kingdom, Thanis Na Song Khla yesterday met with the Chief Executive of the Labour Fund "Tamkeen" Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi to discuss and elaborate methods of collaboration between the two countries. During the meeting, the Labour Fund "Tamkeen" signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion of Thailand (OSMEP) to foster collaboration in the entrepreneurial landscape in both Bahrain and Thailand.

The purpose of this MoU is to jointly study opportunities to promote entrepreneurial and startup ecosystems as well as



Dr Janahi shakes hand with Thanis Na Song Khla after signing the deal.

develop frameworks and roadmaps that support companies and entrepreneurs to grow and expand.

The MoU was signed by Tamkeen's Chief Executive Dr Ebrahim Mohammed Janahi and OSMEP Director General Suwanchai Lohawatanakul.

Stressing the importance of this collaboration, Thanis Na Song Khla hailed Bahrain and Thailand long-standing history of bilateral relations, especially in the trade sector.

"The two countries have been actively exchanging trade missions in various sectors in these recent years. The MoU would even more tighten the relationship and benefits the people of

“The MoU will further boost trade ties between both countries.”

DR JANAH

two countries," he explained.

Dr Janahi praised this partnership as a key step towards fostering entrepreneurship and the creation of innovative businesses to stimulate job creation and boost economic growth in both countries.

He explained that this agreement aims to look into potential ways to benefit from the exchange of expertise as well as explore opportunities to pro-

te the startup ecosystem and its positive contribution to the national economy.

As well as discussing joint initiatives and projects that shall focus on the development of entrepreneurship, both organisations will work together to establish a close working relationship dedicated to the development and enhancement of small and medium-sized enterprises of the two countries.

The MoU is also aimed at sharing information on policies of the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, entrepreneurial ecosystem, including regulatory impact assessment.

Furthermore, the co-opera-

tion will focus on enhancing technology and startups activities specifically in the fields of strategic businesses and marketing to enhance competitiveness.

The partnership's activities will include exchange of study visits, training and sharing of expertise and introduction of programmes for SMEs in both countries.

The two parties also discussed the aims and objectives of the Thai Expo SME One Fest held in the Kingdom of Bahrain on 11-12 September 2019.

The Expo brought together over 120 Thai representatives from different sectors including fashion, food, cosmetics and technology.

Court begins hearing in drugs case

TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has begun hearing the case of two defendants, accused of possessing two kilograms of illicit drugs.

The two were arrested after police officers received information revealing the pair were peddling and consuming drugs.

Anti-drug squads were assigned to capture them



“The pair were arrested for possessing different types of drugs, including hashish as well as a digital scale.”

PROSECUTORS

after an arrest warrant was issued by the Public Prosecution.

The pair were arrested for possessing different types of drugs, including hashish as well as a digital scale, which they used in selling drugs to customers, according to prosecutors.

They also had BD5,300 and BD3,400 Saudi riyals with them.

One of the men told prosecutors that they received the drugs from a GCC national man, whose name was unknown to them.

He said that he has been addicted to drugs since a very long time and he wanted to purchase drugs in large quantities.

Terror funding suspects jailed

TDT | Manama

Two men involved with funding terrorism have been hit with three years behind bars as well as a hefty fine of BD100,000 each.

According to Prosecutors, the pair were part of Al Ashtar Brigades terrorist group and they were providing financial support to help the outfit carry out its terrorist plans in an effort to destabilise the Kingdom and target police officers.

It's said that the first defendant assigned the second defendant to receive money, which he handed over to terrorists to carry out terror activities while some cash was also given to families of men convicted in terror cases.

The defendants were held guilty based on the technical pieces of evidence submitted against them as well as their statements before the Public Prosecution.

'Bahraini people essential partner in democracy, sustainable development'

Manama

Marking the International Day of Democracy, which is observed on September 15, and celebrated this year under the theme "Participation", the Shura Council affirmed that the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has laid the bases which made the Bahraini people an essential partner in building real and constructive democracy.

It also stressed the Bahraini people's active contribution to achieving sustainable development and participating in the implementation in its programmes.

The Shura Council expressed utmost pride in the democratic achievements and continuous success of the Kingdom in the democratic and human rights field.

It pointed out the government's tireless efforts to press ahead with more initiatives in this respect under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and the support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier.

The council praised the Bahraini people's unwavering role in assuming the national responsibility on many occasions and

bringing about democratic accomplishments.

It lauded large participation in the parliamentary and municipal elections held every four years which reflect one of the main features of democracy, freedom and human rights.

It reaffirmed continuous work and efforts to upgrade the national legislative system and keep it in tune with the democratic advancement in the kingdom, according to constitutional tools.

It also underlined commitment to all democratic values underscored by the royal reform project, pledging to continue co-operating with the executive branch for more prosperity to Bahrain and its people.

Separately, Speaker of the Council of Representatives, Fawzia Zainal, said that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has, during his prosperous era, laid the foundations for an integrated democratic system based on solid legal and legislative bases, which placed Bahrain among modern developed countries through the wise vision embedded in the Royal Reform Project that covers various sectors.

She stressed that HM the King's reform approach has put forward the solid bases for a democratic state, as stipulated in the Constitution, established the state of law



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MS ZAINAL

and establishments, and encouraged strong popular participation, being among the main pillars of democracy, within open democratic practices aimed at achieving the Bahraini people's aspirations and ambitions.

The speaker underlined the Legislative Branch's keenness to achieve the goals, values and principles of democratic work and practices according to a constitutional and legal method, through enacting legislation and making proposals and initiatives aimed at consolidating the principles of human rights and responsible freedom of opinion and expression, in line with the provisions of Bahrain's constitution and based on the principles of the National Action Charter to implement HM the King's directives in this regard.

In a statement marking the In-

ternational Day of Democracy, the speaker called for concerted regional and international efforts to further consolidate the international democratic and parliamentary work method to achieve the interests of countries and societies, and meet peoples' aspirations.

She added that Bahrain had witnessed a unique national and popular consensus, the highest manifestation of which was the meeting of the royal will and the active and wide popular participation in the adoption of HM the King's Reform Project, culminating in the endorsement of the National Action Charter in February 2001, by 98.4%.

She pointed out that the kingdom's constitution in its paragraph "e", known as the "democracy" paragraph, stipulates that "Citizens, both men and women, are entitled to participate in public affairs and may enjoy political rights, including the right to vote and to stand for elections", the rights that the Bahraini people have actually enjoyed as reflected in the recent parliamentary elections which witnessed the highest turnout in the history of the kingdom, thus reflecting the citizens' confidence in their democratically elected institutions and keenness to exercise their political rights guaranteed by the National Action Charter, the Constitution and laws.