

Festivities galore for National day

ISS astronauts congratulates HM the King Manama

Astronauts onboard the International Space Station (ISS) orbiting the earth sent an audio and video message of congratulations to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa and the people of Bahrain marking the Accession and the National Days.

"We, the two astronauts working with the Russian Space Agency - Roscosmos - and those onboard the International Space Station (ISS) congratulate, from the bottom of our hearts, the King and people of Bahrain on the National Day, wishing the Kingdom further progress

and prosperity", said the two Russian astronauts.

They said they looked forward to the cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of space sciences, hoping to see a Bahraini astronaut soon among them onboard International Space Station (ISS). Roscosmos said that the congratulations epitomize solid relations binding the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Bahrain, paying tribute to HM the King for his wise policy of promoting dialogue between civilisations and co-existence between peoples.

DT News Network Manama

Congratulations poured in from all over the Gulf Cooperation Council nations (GCC) yesterday on the occasion of Kingdom celebrating the anniversary of the establishment of the modern state of Bahrain as an Arab and Muslim country in 1783, the 46th anniversary of its accession to the UN as a full member and the 18th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

Marking the occasion, from December 16 to 17, Bahrain's embassies in all over GCC held celebrations in presence of diplomats, top government officials and guests.

Meanwhile, in Bahrain, the festivities reached a fever

pitch yesterday with schools all across the Kingdom hosting artistic, cultural and educational events. Education Minister, Dr. Majid Al Nuaimi extended 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 Premier, and the Bahraini people on the dear national occasions.

In Riyadh, Bahrain's embassy celebration held at the Tuwaiq Palace was attended by Governor of Riyadh, Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. He praised Bahrain's role in promoting

Gulf cooperation and Arab and Islamic solidarity and its concern for the security, stability, progress and prosperity of the region.

Kingdom's envoy to Saudi Arabia, Shaikh Hamoud bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa praised the close relations between the two countries and their brotherly peoples, noting the wise leaders' keenness to develop them in various fields.

In Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates' Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Tolerance, Shaikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, and a number of officials at the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in the festivities organised by the Ambassador of Bahrain to the United Arab Emirates, Mohammed bin Hamad Saqer Al-Moawda.

In Cairo, Presidential Secretary Ahmed Ihab conveyed the congratulations of President Abdel Fattah El Sisi to his Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The Ambassador of the Kingdom to Egypt and Permanent Representative to the League of Arab States, Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa, praised the honourable positions of Egypt towards Bahrain and the security of the Gulf region.

Celebrations were also

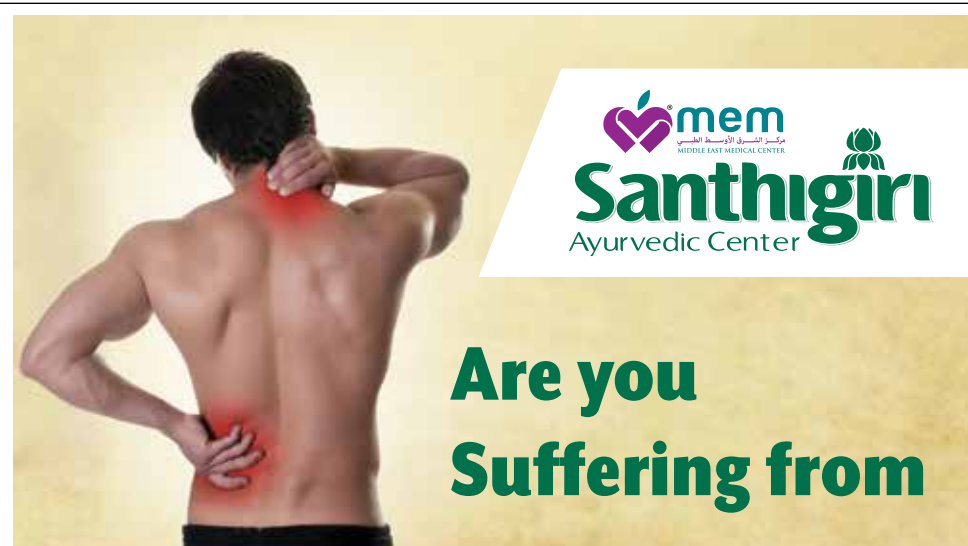
organised by various Ministries in Bahrain with Undersecretary of the Information Affairs Ministry, Abdulrahman Mohammed Bahar leading the ministry's festivities by visiting a number of directorates. Activities at the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) were

held in the presence of NIHR Chairperson, Maria Khoury. NIHR's Secretary-General Dr Khalifa bin Ali Al-Fadhel extended congratulations to the leadership and the Bahraini people.

The Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) also joined the festivities by organising a

ceremony for its staff at its premises in Seef.

Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Assistant General Secretary and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) General Secretary Abdulrahman Askar extended congratulation to Bahrain leadership and people on the occasion.



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