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● A workshop by international experts is planned for November in co-operation with Economic Development Board (EDB) and the World Economic Forum.

Manama

Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) Chief Executive Mohammed Ali AlQaed said that the speech of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at the opening of the second session of the fifth Legislative Term of the Shura and Representatives councils, was a reaffirmation of the institutionalisation of democratic life under the reform pro-

cess lead by HM the King and with the support of the government of HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa the Prime Minister, and the supervision of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr AlQaed said that the Kingdom's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector has experienced major advances under His Majesty's reign, built upon a solid IT infrastructure and a supportive legislative environment that is in line with current developments.

All of these factors enhance the effectiveness and performance



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MR ALQAEED

of the government sector, empowering national cadres to offer advanced government eServices to the community and placing the

Kingdom firmly among advanced countries in the ICT field, the official observed.

He noted that His Majesty's

speech was a roadmap for iGA going forward, stressing the Kingdom's technical readiness that qualifies to directly focus on improving its digital economy and Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities.

“The application of AI technologies is among the priorities of the eGovernment programme in the upcoming phase and the development process is continuing,” he added.

Mr AlQaed said that a comprehensive AI national strategy is being formulated to improve government productivity and create a work environment that encourages innovation.

A workshop by international

experts is planned for November in co-operation with Economic Development Board (EDB) and the World Economic Forum to consider the possibility of applying a number of successful international AI initiatives in the government sector.

He said that iGA continues to develop infrastructure in accordance with best international practice to support cloud computing migration across the Kingdom.

The focus of iGA's next phase is to speed up the transition towards a digital economy in partnership with all relevant sectors, and in implementation of His Majesty's vision.

## Deadline alert for all real estate evaluators

Manama

Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the CEO of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), has urged real estate evaluators to apply for a RERA licence as the November 2, 2019 deadline is fast approaching.

Shaikh Mohammed said evaluators play a very important role in the overall real estate ecosystem and therefore licensing, professionalising and regulating

this category is essential.

When RERA was launched on 1 March 2018, the initial focus was on the licensing of developers, off-plan sales developments, real estate brokers and sales agents.

In the quarter four of 2018 licensing requirements and regulations were extended to property managers and owners association managers.

All providers of real estate evaluation services are required to hold a RERA licence by November 2, 2019 as it is a legal

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**More stringent regulation and professionalisation of the real estate evaluation sector is critical and will benefit the wider Bahrain economy.**

SHAIKH MOHAMMED

requirement.

The RERA CEO added the more stringent regulation and professionalisation of the real estate evaluation sector is critical and will benefit the wider Bahrain economy and the financial services sector in particular as valuations will have to be conducted by suitably qualified and expert licensed valuers in accordance with international valuation standards.

All licensed evaluators are required to attend the Valua-

tion Standards and Regulations course which take place on November 20 and 21 in English and on November 24 and 25 in Arabic. To register, licensed evaluators should send mail at realestate@bibf.com.

Providers of valuation services are encouraged to visit the RERA website [www.rera.gov.bh](http://www.rera.gov.bh) for full information on the licence application process, continuous professional development obligations and other useful information.

## ICRF Autumn Fest set

TDT | Manama

After the grand success of “ICRF Workers' Day 2019 – Summer Fest” in which more than 800 workers participated and enjoyed, the Indian Community Relief Fund (ICRF) is holding another event for the workers called “ICRF Workers' Day 2019 – Autumn Fest”.

The event will be held on Friday, October 25, 2019, starting from 2pm to 8pm followed by a dinner, at the Indian School premises, Isa Town.

“We intend to create an atmosphere of celebrations and enjoyment for the low-income workers, in turn improving their morale and create awareness on support systems available by the community for them,” ICRF said in a statement issued.

The workers will enjoy indoor and outdoor games and other fun-filled activities, including tug of war, running race, sack race, karaoke singing, spot quiz, cinematic dance and many more attractions, the statement added.

“In addition to the above entertainments, we shall have gift hampers for each attendees and special gifts for the winners as well.”

ICRF has established a big team comprising Pankaj Malik and M K Siraj as general conveners and Sudher Thirunilath, Subair Kannur, Nasser Manjeri, Pavithran Neeleswaram, Jawad Pasha, Muralikrishnan, K T Salim, D Siva Kumar, Anish Sreedhar as joint conveners for this purpose.

ICRF is a non-government, non-profit organisation established in 1999, working under the patronage of Indian Ambassador to the Kingdom for the general welfare of the Indian workers in Bahrain.

“Our mission is to give a helping hand to the economically weaker section of the Indian community in Bahrain. This includes legal aid, emergency help, community welfare services, medical assistance and counselling,” the fund said.

## Updating accounting practices



Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Khalifa, Auditor General of the National Audit Office (NAO) yesterday received Abbas Radhi, Chairman of the Bahrain Accountants Association and his accompanying delegation. They discussed the latest developments and initiatives in updating accounting practices to keep abreast of the digital revolution in this sector. They reviewed the association's role in developing the accounting profession to cope with international as well as local requirements through the organisation of seminars, lectures and sponsorship of scientific research in various fields of accounting and auditing. They examined ways of enhancing co-operation in the field of capacity building for the benefit of the financial community in Bahrain and to keep pace with the changing requirements in this field.

## Bahrain's commitment to all UNSC resolutions stressed

Manama

The National Committee for Follow-Up on the Kingdom of Bahrain's Commitment to All Security Council Resolutions convened its fourth meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday presided by the Ministry's Undersecretary for International Affairs Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, with the participation of members of the committee representing the relevant ministries and government bodies.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr Shaikh Abdulla thanked the members of the committee and their respective bodies on their active and distinguished participation in the “workshop to safeguard non-profit sector from terrorist abuse” which was held in



Dr Shaikh Abdullah chairs the meeting.

the Kingdom between the 3rd-4th of September, in partnership with experts from the United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force

(MENAFATF), as well as representatives of 19 bodies with a total of 83 participants, including representatives of civil society organisations, banks and financial institutions.

The meeting reviewed the outcomes of the working groups emanating from the National Committee, and the efforts exerted in establishing integrated system related to the implementation of the

UN Security Council resolutions in accordance with the expected standards and requirements.

During the meeting, they also exchanged view on the mechanisms of completing the committee's work plan for this year in line with the aspirations and programs of the relevant ministries and government agencies.

The undersecretary pointed out that the National Committee continues to exert efforts to follow-up the UN Security Council resolutions, namely combating terrorism. He added that the Committee works on enhancing coordination with the relevant bodies in the Kingdom, as well as taking all the necessary measures in this regard and in line with the partnership with the United Nations.