

Crown Prince holds call with Pompeo

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, held a telephone call with the United States' Secretary of State, Michael Pompeo.

During the call, HRH the Crown Prince and the Secretary of State reviewed the longstanding relations and extensive collaboration between Bahrain and the United States, as well as discussing the latest international and regional developments.

SAT/IITJEE/NEET seminar today

Manama

Indian Excellent Educational Centre is conducting a free Seminar for 11th and 12th Class students and their parents on SAT, IITJEE, NEET and NIT.

The seminar will be held at Indian Excellent Educational Centre, Mahoos-Um Al Hassam, today from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

The seminar aims to help students to prepare for Medical/Engineering Entrance Exam and obtain admissions in reputed Engineering/Medical colleges in India and abroad.

For more information contact 32332746 /38082637 /17344971.

Diplomacy conference

Abu Dhabi

Executive Director of the Institute of Diplomacy, Dr Shaikha Muneera bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, participated in a "Diplomacy and Training" session, held as part of the Abu Dhabi Diplomacy Conference. The forum aimed at strengthening dialogue and joint coordination between diplomats to overcome challenges in the training field.

Global effort to support women empowerment

International conference promotes women's participation in politics

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Harpreet Kaur

In the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife to the King, and President of the Supreme Council of Women, the Supreme Council for Women concluded the International conference on a high note promoting women's participation in politics.

The conference held under the patronage of HRH Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of the King of Bahrain, President of Supreme Council for Women, focused on Global Developments in Achieving Equitable Gender Competitiveness and Women's Participation in Public Life 'Policy, Legislation and Decision-Making'.

Speaking to Tribune, Hala Al Ansari, the Secretary-General of Supreme Council For Women said, "We are so glad to have hosted this conference in this time in particular as we see a lot of women contesting in legislative and municipal elections where I believe it might be quiet interesting to showcase what is happening in the political field as well as how the women of Bahrain are performing in the same thing that their counter-



Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa during the concluding session



"I believe how can we ask for quotas when we have a balance between men and women. If we create a quota system we are just creating stereotypes of women and further creating imbalance situation"

HALA AL ANSARI
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF SUPREME COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

"I believe we don't need women empowerment anymore leave alone quota as women in Bahrain are in equal partnership with men"

SAMIRA RAJAB
SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE ROYAL COURT BAHRAIN



Prof. Mustafa El-Feki

parts are going through." "In Bahrain, we are changing our language, we are changing our approach, where we are speaking of terminating the gap between men and women in the

work field, thus how can we initiating quotas where our indicators prove that the women of our country are starting to create a balance."

"I believe how can we ask for

in the field of politics so that to accelerate the process of women in politics.

Samira Rajab, Special Envoy of the Royal Court Bahrain further told tribune, "I believe we don't need women empowerment anymore leave alone quota as women in Bahrain are in equal partnership with men. We emphasize the fact of no more quota system or empowerment as it is downgrading.

"Also, we need to work together to change the global perception of women in the Arab world. Our reality, our life is completely different, where in Bahrain women have more rights, more rules and an advanced constitution for the rights for women, where even in the USA the constitution doesn't mention the equality between men and women, so we are more advanced than them in term of laws, practising our life but instead portrayed in a stereotypical approach."

Prof. Mustafa El-Feki, Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Expert in Diplomatic Affairs, Writer further praised Bahrain's support for women. "The presence of Her Highness among us over two days is the evidence of the political will of the Kingdom of Bahrain to support women. Moreover, I believe quota is in itself is a discrimination against women, because it validates women's weakness and lack of merit as women issue is a cultural issue where I urge intellectual groups, religious institutions, societies to realise that women's issues are due to culture but not differences."

Meanwhile, Angelica Melinar, member of the Commission on the Rights of Women and Gender Equality in the European Parliament, said that Women in high-level positions were called upon to support their counterparts at the lower and middle levels, with a view to correcting the worldwide imbalance in the presence of a proper number of women in senior positions.

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Al Ansari further stressed the importance of providing continual platforms through which ideas and experiences can be exchanged among all countries

Witnesses to be heard in terrorist group case

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Prosecution witnesses will take the stand on 21 November 2018 to give evidence in the case of the Bahraini Hizbollah terrorist group in which 169 men have been charged.

The terror group, according to court files, was formed by merging several Bahrain-based terrorist groups as ordered by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

Bahraini Hizbollah was thus formed by merging Saraya Al Ashtar (Al Ashtar Brigades), Saraya Al Mukhtar

(The Chosen Brigades) and Saraya Al Muqawama Al Sha'abya (Popular Resistance Brigades).

An investigation into the network by the Public Prosecution identified the group as having 169 members of which 111 are in police custody.

They will stand trial in the High Criminal Court on October 3. The remaining members will be tried in absentia.

They are accused of joining the terrorist organisation, carrying out attacks, receiving militia training in Iran, Iraq and Lebanon as well as storing weapons and explosives.

Some of them are accused of heading and funding the group.

Terror Crime Prosecution chief advocate general Ahmed Al Hammadi said, "leaders within the Iranian regime" ordered the IRGC to form the terror network to operate as a Bahrain branch of Hizbollah, an Iran backed terrorist organisation based in Lebanon.

"Members of the terrorist cells received funding and training to set up weapons and explosives depot, smuggle bombs and firearms, and use dead drops to deliver money and weapons to members of the group," he said.

Court acquits two men in helping fugitive case

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The Lower Criminal Court acquitted two brothers of charges of hiding a wanted fugitive and possessing arms for lack of proof.

The court also found that the suspects' house was inspected without necessary legal documents.

The defendants' lawyer Feda Abdullah told the court that the police officers arrested the pair and inspected their house with an expired warrant, making the case baseless.

"Police officers used a warrant that expired seven days ago to inspect the defendants' homes," she said.

The lawyer also brought before the court the discrepancies in the initial investigation report, which is silent about the pair's involvement in the case.

The lawyer told the court that even though one of the brothers knew the that the suspect was a fugitive they really had no idea about the crime he had committed.

"Even the wanted man didn't know what his crime was. Case files say he was sentenced to six months in prison but is silent about the date or the crime. It further says he was sentenced to three months in jail and fined BD100, both in 2011. However, no further details were given,"

she argued.

The lawyer further told the court that the defendants were caught in possession of a wood stick and a knife, which is not sufficient to level charges against them.

The court in its verdict said the investigators should not have entered or inspected the house without the permission of the residents except in cases of extreme necessity specified by the law and in the manner prescribed therein.

"Moreover, the court found that the arrest warrant was invalid as necessary legal procedures weren't followed," the verdict explained.