



His Majesty with new BRCS board chairman Shaikh Khalid and members.

Charity efforts lauded

HM King receives BRCS new Board Chairman, members

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and most pioneering societies in the region.

Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) new Board Chairman Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa and members at Sakhir Palace yesterday.

His Majesty congratulated them on the formation of the new Board of Directors, wishing them every

success.

HM the King underlined Bahrain's keenness on supporting charity, humanitarian and voluntary work, lauding the Kingdom's initiatives in this respect which reflect the Bahraini people's belief in the importance of solidarity that emanates from Islamic precepts and the inherent Bahraini traditions.

His Majesty thanked BRCS board Chairman and members for their tireless efforts to achieve the society's goals, praising the key role of BRCS in promoting the cul-

ture of voluntary work, solidarity and co-operation.

HM the King stressed the Kingdom's glorious history and civilisation, which have always been based on tolerance and coexistence.

HM King Hamad recalled the efforts of late Shaikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Khalifa in charity and humanitarian work and his contribution to boosting BRCS regional and international participation while chairing its Board of Directors.

He also commended the efforts

and contribution of former BRCS chairman and members.

BRCS Board member Taqi Al Baharna presented HM the King with some of his literary publications.

The BRCS Board Chairman extended heartfelt thanks and gratitude to HM the King for the meeting, voicing pride in his being the society Honorary President which reflects the royal keenness on enabling the society to continue achieving its noble goals for which it was set up in 1970.

Shaikh Khalid affirmed that the royal support to BRCS has enabled

it to develop over the past years to become one of the oldest and most pioneering societies in the region given the key role it plays at the regional and international level.

He pointed out the society's relief efforts at the international level, including building schools, hospitals and shelters as well as providing immediate relief aid to disaster-stricken regions.

He also pointed out the society's contribution to providing the needed training in more than 30 states, in co-operation with national associations.

Azerbaijan to open tourism promotional office in Bahrain

Baku

Deputy CEO of Azerbaijan Tourism Board, Rufat Baghirov, highlighted the importance of the Kingdom as a gateway for Gulf travellers to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At a press meeting held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in the presence of reporters from Bahraini local press, Bahrain News Agency and social media activists, Mr Baghirov highlighted the intention of the Azerbaijani Tourism Board to establish a tourism promotion office in the Kingdom to attract more tourists from the Gulf and Arab countries.

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The promotional plan includes diversifying tourism markets to support tourism in Azerbaijan by opening new tourist offices in the promising regions.

MR BAGHIROV

Mr Baghirov said the promotional plan includes diversifying tourism markets to support tourism in Azerbaijan by opening new tourist offices in the promising regions, such as the Arabian Gulf,

Asia, Latin America and Central Europe.

He added flights arriving from Manama could benefit from this promotional plan, which contributes to increasing the number of tourists arriving from the Arabian Gulf region to Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan Airlines inaugurated its first direct flight between Manama and Baku in a celebration held at Bahrain International Airport, which was attended by officials from Bahrain's Civil Aviation Authority, representative of the Azerbaijan Airlines in Bahrain and strategic partner of the Azerbaijan Airlines in Bahrain Ibn Firas Travel.

Forum invitation



Health Minister Faeqa Al Saleh yesterday received Chinese Ambassador to Bahrain Mr An Wa'er, who presented her with an invitation by her Chinese counterpart to take part in the second edition of the Arab-Chinese Co-operation Forum in the Health Sector, which will be held in August, 2019, in China. The Health Minister hailed the invitation, stressing its importance and keenness on achieving maximum benefit to enrich the health sector. She also lauded strong relations between the two friendly countries, stressing the need to bolster bilateral co-operation mainly in the health field.

Portuguese National Day celebrated in style

**TDT | Manama
Supriya Reginald**

The Portuguese Community celebrated their National Day on Sunday at the Royal Golf Club in Riffa.

More than 150 attended the celebration including ambassadors, diplomats, senior officials and businessmen.

The event was organised by prominent resident Mrs Benediçta Budagher, one of the longest Portuguese residents in the Kingdom (40 years), and her husband former Gulf Air Captain Ameen Fahad Budagher.

The couple has been organisers of the Portuguese National Day celebrations in Bahrain for the past decade.

Guest of Honour Tawfeeq Ahmed Al Mansoor, Assistant Undersecretary for Western



Capt Budagher with envoys of different countries, senior government officials and dignitaries at the cake-cutting ceremony.

Countries and Afro-Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bahrain, conveyed greetings from the Undersecretary of International Affairs at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, who wished the citizens of the Portuguese Republic further progress

and prosperity.

Historically, the relationship between the two countries began nearly 500 years ago in 1521 with the first arrival of Portu-

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CAPT BUDAGHER

guese navigators in Bahrain.

“Both countries share a great deal of cultural similarities, the Portuguese language incorporates a number of Arabic words more than any other language,” said Capt Budagher.

On a diplomatic scale, both

countries forged a relationship in 1976.

“The Portuguese have been involved in many projects in Bahrain, including Asry,” revealed Capt Budagher.

The Portuguese community in Bahrain account to nearly 100 citizens spread across various fields such as medical, engineering, trade and education.

“The relationship the Portuguese have with Bahrain is very courteous. There are many forms of relationship, such a trade, business and tourism,” said Capt Budagher.

“We have a lot of Bahrainis that seek higher education in Portugal. Our future plans to strengthen and improve the bond between both countries is to emphasis on trade, education and cultural-exchange,” he added.