

## Manama

The Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA) will partner with municipal councils and the Capital Secretariat for the development of eServices.

This came as iGA Chief Executive Mohammed Ali AlQaed received in his office at Isa Town yesterday the Chairman of the Capital Municipal Council, Saleh Tarradah, the Chairman of Northern Municipal Council Ahmed Al Kooheji, the Chairman of Southern Municipal Council Chairman Bader Al Tamimi and Muharraq Municipal Council Vice Chairman Hassan Al Doy.

Mr AlQaed commended the efforts taken by the municipal councils and the Capital Secretariat in developing the Kingdom's municipal sector.

He stressed iGA's commitment to enhance co-operation among all public sector service providers, including municipal councils, adding that the iGA looks forward to directing the combined efforts of these organisations towards improving the efficiency and quality of services provided to the public.

The meeting discussed methods of strengthening communi-

# iGA in deal with councils for developing eServices

Move in line with speeding up the Kingdom's digital transformation



Mr AlQaed with council officials.

cation with the public, including the possibility of the remaining councils joining the Tawasul suggestions and complaints system, and developing the eServices of the Councils and Secretariat, in line with efforts to speed up the Kingdom's digital transformation.

The Municipal Council and Capital Secretariat leaders praised the iGA's role in supporting government institutions and its co-operation with the councils in various fields, particularly those related to eServices and improving communication with the public.

## AGU voluntary team spreads hope in Sri Lanka

## Manama

A voluntary team from the Arabian Gulf University (AGU) recently returned from a trip to Sri Lanka, where the team members joined hands with volunteers from different countries in the region to help the less fortunate in remote areas there.

The team is known by the name "A Cloud of Hope" and consists of 34 graduates from the College of Medicine and Medical Science in the university, in addition to volunteers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt and Syria.

During their journey, team members extended a helping hand to the needy and diseased persons there, providing them with medical care and health services in public hospitals.

The trip was organised in co-operation with local charity and voluntary organisations in Sri Lanka. It also included visits to elderly care homes, public schools, places of worship and villages.



'A Cloud of Hope' members in Sri Lanka.

On the occasion, Yousif Al Tandeel, Founder of the team, commented: "Team members provided a variety of medical

and health services to over 1,000 people there, including children, adults and elderly citizens.

"We have also distributed ful-

ly equipped school bags among needy students and orphanages. Needy families were also provided with basic aids, especially

orphans and the elderly."

Mr Al Tandeel expressed his delight to successfully conduct the humanitarian journey, highlighting that team members showed a spirit of generosity and goodwill, and cooperated among themselves to provide humanitarian support to the needy.

The volunteers also held basic first aid courses and health guidance in both schools and temples, and contributed to the painting and renovation of some school facilities and provided them with chairs, coolers and other facilities.

"A Cloud of Hope" had organised similar trips to India, Tanzania and other countries, where they spread knowledge and awareness among less fortunate people, in addition to other needs and commodities.

The team's activities also include visiting public hospitals and health centres here, where they pay periodic visits to cancer patients, especially children, to encourage them and support in their battle with the disease.

## Man jailed for escaping from court

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The High Criminal Court has sentenced a Bahraini man to six months behind bars for escaping from the court.

The defendant is said to have taken advantage of a police officer's fault of not securely handcuffing him.

Therefore, he uncuffed one of his hands and ran away, heading to Ras Ruman village, according to prosecutors.

"He later fully removed the handcuff from his other hand and entered one of the houses there."



**He wore an Abaya and women's shoes in order to mislead us.**

POLICE OFFICER

## Two new academies to boost arts, heritage and music

## Jeddah

Saudi Arabia is to set up arts academies, including two in the next two years, offering a step toward academic qualification and enlarging the Kingdom's footprint in heritage, arts and crafts, and music.

The initiative is part of the Ministry of Culture's Quality of Life programme.

The minister, Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Farhan, said investment in "capacity building" was one of the most important elements in encouraging the cultural sector, which enjoyed unlimited support from King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

**The music academy in particular will be "the core of music production and talent development in Saudi Arabia."**

MAMDOUTH SAIF

The Kingdom was rich in diverse arts, talents and artistic production, Prince Badr said, and the academies would be a first step toward academic qualification in the arts within the Kingdom.

One academy specialising in heritage and traditional arts and crafts will start receiving

applications in autumn 2020, targeting 1,000 students and trainees in long- and short-term programs.

A second academy dedicated to music will receive 1,000 students and trainees from 2021.

The music academy in particular will be "the core of music production and talent development in Saudi Arabia," Saudi musician, composer and producer Mamdouh Saif said.

The music industry was a large and diverse field, Saif said, and education was crucial.

"The academy is the right place to launch the music industry in Saudi Arabia, and it will have a significant impact on Saudi youth, and young people in surrounding countries," he said.

## Man jailed for running drugs racket

TDI | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a GCC citizen to 15 years behind bars and he was fined BD5,000 too for spearheading a drug peddling network.

Three other men involved in the same case were sentenced to 10 years behind bars each.

The trio are from Bahrain, but the GCC Citizen was ordered to be deported once he serves his jail term.

According to court files, the tip-off was sent to police officers revealing that the GCC national man was operating the drug racket with the help of his co-defendants.

**5,000**  
Bahraini dinars in fine was imposed on the defendant for running a drug peddling network.

Therefore, an inspection warrant was issued to search the homes of the defendants.

An anti-drug squad was sent to the homes of the defendants and found different types of drugs stored there.

The accused men were charged with selling drugs.

"He wore an Abaya and women's shoes in order to mislead us," a police officer, who was in the team, which arrested the defendant, said.

The defendant told prosecutors: "As soon as I entered another house, telling him that I was from the police, he yelled at me and I ran away. I sneaked into another house, but police officers arrested me."

"We were shocked to see a man wearing an Abaya entering our house. We shouted, but he held our maid in an effort to force us to keep him inside. But we continued screaming and he left," a member of the house, which the defendant trespassed, said.