

Recognising HM King's key role in reshaping Middle East landscape



DR YASSER A GOMAA
UNIVERSITY OF BAHRAIN

In recognition of his effective role in promoting global peace and prosperity, authentic faithful charisma over the top leadership, and vision for the Kingdom of Bahrain to emergence as a global power, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa was conferred the "Legion of Merit" (LOM), Degree Chief Commander, by US President Donald Trump on 18 January.

The LOM is the highest military award of the US Armed Forces that is given to uniformed US military service members, to military and political figures, or to government heads of other countries who have made especially outstanding meritorious contributions to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public endeavours.

The LOM is a recognition of His Majesty's unflinching leadership under which the Kingdom of Bahrain has advanced a deep and an enduring partnership with many countries all over the world across various domains.

It is an appreciation of his splendid vision and stout-heartedness that have positively reshaped the landscape of the Gulf region and the Middle East, leading to a new era of security and prosperity for the Kingdom and the world.

Moreover, it is an acknowledgment of his positive impact on the political scene in the Middle East and the effective role that he has played in supporting regional and international stability.

It is an avowal of his success to establish friendly relations and strategic solid partnership with many countries all over the world, and his unprecedented courage in supporting the vision of peace that has started a new era of economic and security cooperation in the Middle East, endeavouring to harness the tremendous potential of the unique strengths of Bahrain and its people to provide global leadership for the benefit of entire humanity.

The LOM is not the first award that His Majesty has received. He has received numerous honours and decorations from many countries, such as the Order of the Star of Jordan, Moroccan Order of Sovereignty, Iraqi Order of the Two Rivers, Jordanian Supreme Order of the Renaissance, Egyptian Order of the Republic, Order of King Abdulaziz, Star of the Republic of Indonesia, Order of Merit the Republic of Mauritania, UK Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Order of the Grand Conqueror of Libya, Malaysian Order of the Crown of the Realm, Order of Zayed, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Order of the Republic of the Yemen, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Dannenberg, Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit of France, Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic of Spain, the Royal Family Order of the Crown of Brunei, Grand Cordon of the Order of the Republic of Tunisia, First Class of the Royal Family Order of Johor, and Egyptian Collar of the Order of the Nile.

Sincere congratulations to His Majesty on these well-deserved honours and decorations, which clearly show how the international community places His Majesty and the Kingdom of Bahrain high.

They also reflect a recognition of his wise policy and unremitting efforts to maintain an internationally respected diplomacy and humanitarian role.

In addition, they are a source of pride and praise for the entire Bahrainis and residents alike. May Allah bless His Majesty and offer him long life and power, and maintain peace, security, prosperity and progress in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

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Why space science is important to society

NSSA holds workshop to discuss its applications for progress and development

● For the teaching staff at Nasser Vocational Training Center (NVTC)

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Space science not only makes us look outwards from our planet, to the stars and beyond but it drives innovation and leads to progress and economic development.

It brings many technological and scientific advances that benefit the society in areas including health and medicine, transportation, public safety, consumer goods, energy and environment, information technology, and industrial productivity.

The importance of space science and technology for the attainment of sustainable development and the need to strengthen its framework were among the issues dis-



This technology inspires future generations of scientists and engineers

cussed during a technical workshop organised by the National Space Science Agency (NSSA) for the teaching staff at Nasser Vocational Training Center (NVTC).

It was held within the framework of the NSSA's endeavours to spread awareness on the importance of space science and its

applications among all segments and institutions of the society.

This specialised workshop introduced space science to the staff responsible for preparing educational and training curricula for the center's students.

It provided a general introduction to the authority's role, objectives and strategic initiatives.

It included a detailed explanation of the importance of micro satellites and their design methods, in addition to an explanation of the basic remote sensing technology, and the importance of its applications in raising and improving the quality of human life.

The course was conducted by space engineers Ali Al Quraan and Ashraf Khater, aerospace engineer Aisha Al Haram and satellite imagery technical analyst Aisha Al Hajri.

"The authority is keen to spread awareness on the importance of space science and its applications, and the information presented in

this workshop is only a little part of what we have learned and gained from the knowledge and experiences from the training programmes and space missions in which we participated during the last period," said Al Quraan.

The NSSA has implemented a series of competitions, courses and workshops for schools and the Gifted Care Center in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and a number of higher education institutions in coordination with the Higher Education Council.

The authority is also in the process of implementing more courses, activities and lectures for school and university students this year.

The NSSA was established by Royal Decree 11/2014, with a vision "to promote Bahrain to a position of international prominence in the field of space science for the purpose of achieving comprehensive and sustainable development".



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Space science can improve the quality of human life

Batoul tops TIMSS mathematics and science tests

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The student Zainab Preparatory School for Girls' Batoul Sayed Hassan Muhammad Alawi has topped the international tests for mathematics and science in the last TIMSS 2019.

Batoul scored an average of 750.6 in the two subjects for the eighth grade (second preparatory) among all public and private schools, well above the global average of 500.

Her parent, Suad Abdullah Ali, was so proud of her daughter's achievement, saying it was "one of my happiest moments."

Suad was unable to describe her great joy when she received the good news of her daughter's honorable rate that exceeded expectations.

She also gave credit to the school curricula prepared by the Ministry of Education in government schools, and developed continuously, for her daughter's excellent performance.

Shaikh Nasser lauds NSSA continuing efforts to develop space science



The meeting in progress

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National Security Advisor His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa received Transportation and Communication Minister and Chairman of the National Space Science Agency (NSSA) Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed and NSSA Chief Executive Officer Mohammed Ebrahim Al Aseeri.

HH Shaikh Nasser commended NSSA for preparing research and studies and capacity building of Bahrainis to serve Bahrain's orientations and enhance its position in space science.

He stressed the importance of continuing serious work to boost Bahrain's capabilities in all areas, including the space sector and research development.

HH Shaikh Nasser praised the NSSA plans, strategies, training pro-

gress and efforts to enhance cooperation with various countries to upgrade the space science sector and achieve the goals set for the Kingdom's further prosperity.

HH Shaikh Nasser was briefed on the major achievements accomplished by the NSSA and on the steps it has taken to enhance its performances.

The minister commended HH Shaikh Nasser's interest in promoting the NSSA and stressed that Bahrain has now acquired distinguished experiences and gained aptitudes in space sciences.

Al Aseeri said HH Shaikh Nasser's support was a great motivation for its members to advance space science as a major priority for Bahrain and stressed that the NSSA has laid out a strategy to boost its performance, enhance the skills of its personnel and deepen cooperation with other countries.

Parliament rejects bill raising candidacy fee to BD400

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The House of Representatives rejected a bill submitted by the Shura Council that aims to increase the amount of candidacy fee for parliamentary elections from BD200 to BD400.

The deputies also unanimously agreed to reject a consultative bill amending some provisions of the municipal councils election system, which includes specifying the duration of candidacy for municipal elections to be three days, and increasing the nomination fee from BD50 to BD200.

Representative Hamad Al Kooheji commented on the law submitted by the Shura Council: "I am surprised to see some members of the Shura Council look at financial matters without any consideration, and the elections are an important part of His Majesty's reform project. HM the King and the democratic process are greater than any amount."