



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met the United Kingdom's Minister of State for the Middle East, the Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, at Gudaibiya Palace. HRH the Crown Prince and the UK's Minister of State for the Middle East discussed a wide range of areas of co-operation, noting the close and historic bilateral relationship between Bahrain and the UK. HRH the Crown Prince and the UK's Minister of State for the Middle East also reviewed issues of mutual interest and highlighted the commitment of both countries to further strengthening bilateral military cooperation to promote regional stability.

## Agriculture sector's contribution stressed

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His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Isa bin Salman Educational Fund, yesterday attended the opening ceremony for the 2019 Bahrain International Garden Show, at Bahrain International Exhibition and Convention Centre.

HH Shaikh Isa affirmed that the ongoing support of HM the

King and HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the Wife of HM the King and President of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development, reflects Bahrain's commitment to prioritise agriculture as an integral part of the Kingdom's development.

HH Shaikh Isa recognised the importance of advancing the agriculture sector's economic contribution in line with Bah-

rain's diversification efforts and environmental stewardship.

HH Shaikh Isa then launched a progress report on the implementation of the United Nation's Sixth Sustainable Development Goal in the Kingdom and a Soil Maps project that outlines the Kingdom's soil properties. HH Shaikh Isa later presented awards to winners in various categories.



HH Shaikh Isa at the opening ceremony of 2019 Bahrain International Garden Show.

# Lending a helping hand

BRCS steps up support to Syrian refugees at Lebanon camps



The delegation at one of the Syrian refugee camps in Northern Lebanon.

● Blankets, clothes, heaters and food parcels were provided to Syrian refugees as part of special winter aid.

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Harpreet Kaur

The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) has intensified its humanitarian efforts to help refugees in winter through distributing winter aid to around 350 refugee families from Syria residing in North Lebanon camps.

The aid included winter essentials, such as blankets, clothes, heaters and food parcels after storms in Lebanon flooded Syrian refugee camps compounding the misery of people enduring powerful winter winds and biting cold.

Dr Fawzi Amin, General Secretary of BRCS, explained that BRCS delegation in Akkar distributed winter aid in a humanitarian gesture that affirms the solidarity of Bahraini people with these refugees.

Dr Fawzi praised the delegation's initiatives including distributing games to kids, which "made them happy in the midst of sufferings".

Dr Fawzi noted the importance of BRCS keenness to intensify efforts of "Warm Hearts" Campaign launched in 2014, where heaters



Dr Fawzi hands over toys to a child refugee.

**350** refugee families benefited from the relief aid provided by the BRCS.

aid a matter of life and death.

Speaking to Tribune, Dr Fawzi said, "The initiative is a continuation of our support to the Syrian refugees. This year there were floods in the northern part of Lebanon at the Lebanon Syrian border, which destroyed many refugee camps.

"Our eight-member team visited the refugee camp in Lebanon along with a few volunteers from Lebanon to appraise the situation.

"In future, we are not only planning to help Syrian refugees but also providing help to the needy in countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"We are planning to visit almost 10 countries by the end of this year to provide aid and engage in voluntary work."

were distributed to hundreds of Syrian refugees at Lebanon.

Both Bahraini government and Bahraini people have been offering unparalleled help to the Syrian refugees across the world.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recently declared that more than a million Syrian refugees in Lebanon are suffering from difficult living conditions, making relief



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- HE Mr Zayed R. Alzayani, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Bahrain
- HE Mr Rasheed Mohammed Al Maraj, Governor, Central Bank of Bahrain
- Steve Wozniak, Co-Founder, Apple Computers

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