

'Colours of the East'

Region's first astronomical photography exhibition organised at Dilmunia Complex



Dilmunia Complex Chief Executive Shaikh Mohammed with guests and participants at the launch ceremony

● Artists and astronomers present best production and creativity in astronomy

● Dilmunia Complex Chief Executive Shaikh Mohammed inaugurates event

● Bahraini photographers' artworks become a visitor attraction to the complex

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Dilmunia Complex Chief Executive Shaikh Mohammed bin Daij Al Khalifa has inaugurated the region's first astronomical photography exhibition.

It was organised at the Dilmunia Complex in Muharraq Governorate coinciding with



An art work on display at the venue

the advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

A number of artistic activities were organised as part of the occasion with the theme "Colours of the East".

Shaikh Mohammed stressed the importance of holding art exhibitions that contribute to developing artistic and aesthetic taste, enhancing the field of artistic investment and exchanging experiences, as well as highlighting the various artistic talents that Bahrain embraces.

He also stated that the exhibition is unique and the first in the region through which the

artists, along with astronomers, presented their best production and creativity in astronomy.

He praised the tremendous efforts exerted by the organisers of the exhibition with the aim of supporting the photography arts and astronomy together.

Shaikh Mohammed lauded the level of organisation and high-end participation by Bahraini photographers as he invited the public, intellectuals and art connoisseurs to visit the Dilmunia Complex to enjoy the astronomical photography exhibition.

The head of the exhibition organising committee, Engineer

Mahdi Al Galawi, praised the efforts made to establish the event that would be a spark to start the production and organisation of art exhibitions of this distinctive type.

Thanks to the efforts of the organisers and the prominent role of the media in supporting the arts and culture, the first astronomical exhibition became a beautiful resonance in the Bahraini cultural scene, especially as it became a visitor attraction to the complex.

Al Galawi thanked the artist, Muhammad Reda Al Asfour, for his efforts in supervising the completion of the project and his continuous support.

The great artist Abbas Al Mousawi also praised the efforts made in organising the exhibition and stressed the importance of this type of exhibition that contains artistic works that inspire contemplation for cosmic peace.

He also thanked the Dilmunia Complex for their support for artistic talents and youth energies.

SEA head discusses investments in renewable energy



Dr Mirza with Dii Desert Energy delegation

● Dii Desert Energy projects praised

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Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) president Dr Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza received Khalid Al Zayani accompanied with the CEO of Dii Desert Energy Cornelius Matthes.

Dr Mirza praised Dii Desert Energy's long-standing experience in the field of renewable energy projects in the deserts of North Africa and the Middle East.

He highlighted its keenness on Chain Value solutions to generate energy from clean and renewable resources, and transport and store it using carbon-free resources and technologies, in addition to the dynamic link between electricity networks in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Dr Mirza gave a presentation on the achievements made in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector and the strides the Kingdom has made in achieving the national goals for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Al Daih land planned for major housing projects

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Housing Minister Basem Al Hamer said that work is underway to acquire a property in the Daih area to provide 166 housing units as work is done according to the established procedures.

He pointed out that the total number of housing applications for the Capital Governorate's

third district has reached 2,020.

In response to a question by MP Mamdouh Al Saleh, Al Hamer indicated that the land development programme has provided more than 1,000 housing units after the demolition of buildings in the area whose life span has expired, and this represents an opportunity to accommodate the demands of neighbouring areas.

Joint cooperation eyed in agriculture and fisheries



The online discussion in progress

● Minister Khalaf meets Chinese Ambassador

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Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Eng. Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf met with China Ambassador to Bahrain Anwar Habiballah to discuss areas of joint cooperation between the two sides, especially in the fields of agriculture and fisheries.

The meeting was attended by Dr Nabil Muhammad Abul-Fath, Undersecretary for Agriculture and Marine Resources, Dr Abdulaziz Abdul-Karim, Assistant Undersecretary for

Agriculture Affairs, Eng. Ammar Yasser, Acting Director of Fisheries Department, and from the Chinese side, Economic and Commercial Counselor at the Chinese Embassy, Zhang Jun.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Minister welcomed the Chinese Ambassador, noting the existing relations between the two friendly countries in all fields.

The Minister praised the role Ambassador Habiballah plays in strengthening ties, pointing out the advanced level reached by the bilateral relations.

Eng. Khalaf reviewed with him areas of joint cooperation in the fields of agriculture, fisheries development and benefiting from Chinese expertise in these sectors.

Prospect and future of higher education discussed remotely

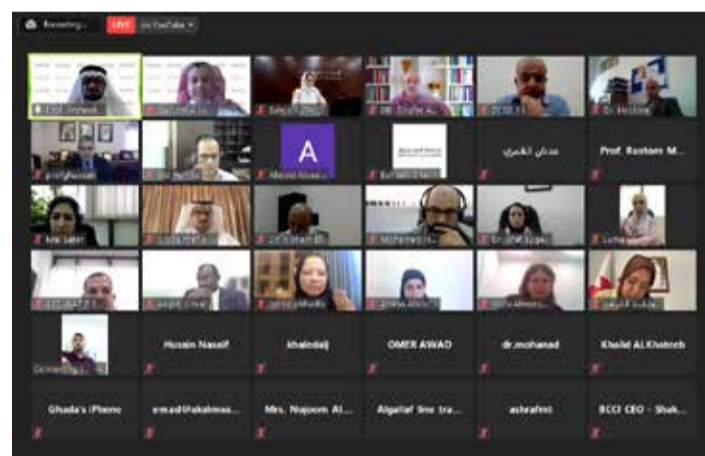
● BCCI organises a webinar to determine the effect of the pandemic on distance learning, e-learning and blended learning

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The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) held a webinar themed "The Prospect of Higher Education."

Representatives from private and government-owned universities, Higher Education Council and Education and Training Quality Authority took part in the online discussion.

BCCI education committee head Dr Waheeb Al Khaja welcomed all the participants and highlighted the effect of the



Stakeholders take part in online discussion

coronavirus pandemic on distance learning, e-learning and blended learning.

He stressed Bahrain's potential in attracting students from the GCC and becoming an education hub in the region.

Dr Al Khaja also revealed that the committee is cooperating

with relevant authorities and universities to establish a national network for research and development.

Education committee member Dr Bassam Al Hamad shared the findings of several international studies on the topic "The Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education."

According to studies, which had a sample of universities from around the world, 80% of the participating universities witnessed a drop in the number of enrolled students for the new academic year; 59% closed their campus and ceased all activities in it; and two-thirds of the uni-

versities converted to distance learning.

The studies also highlighted the challenges that faced universities as a result of the pandemic, key among which with regard to technical readiness and infrastructure; technical competencies of faculty members; technical competencies and readiness of students; requirements of a number of study disciplines that necessitate physical presence and hands-on demonstrations such as engineering and medical; financial challenges; and challenges on preventing plagiarism and other malpractices.

Concluding the webinar, the participants shared recommendations that aim at bolstering higher education in Bahrain.

These include Enhancing collaboration between government-owned and private universities; approving electronic learning as part of educational programmes; allowing open learning across various academic and vocational disciplines; attracting GCC students to study in Bahrain; expanding the implementation of simulation to enrich the learning experience; using software programs to hinder plagiarism.



Dr Al Khaja also revealed that the committee is cooperating with relevant authorities and universities to establish a national network for research and development