



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received president, members, participants and sponsors of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence and "This is Bahrain", held under the royal patronage in New York, USA, marking the official inauguration of the King Hamad Chair in Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence Studies at the Sapienza University, Rome, Italy, which is new scientific specialisation added to the Human Science Faculty at the same university. In the keynote speech, His Majesty appreciated 'This is Bahrain' team for the success of the New York event. His Majesty congratulated Professor Saggiaro on his appointment as Professor of the Academic Chair at the Italian University, wishing him success in his new duties to support and develop research in the field of promoting human rapprochement to build bridges of tolerance and harmony among peoples. His Majesty also interacted with the students of Sapienza University.

Govt priorities stressed



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received prominent businessman Dr Varghese Kurian, who is the chairman of the VKL Holdings and Al Namal Group of Companies. Dr Kurian was part of a delegation of businessmen, which met His Majesty.



HRH the Premier chairs the meeting.

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa chaired a working meeting, at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.

The meeting was devoted to determining the government's future vision and devising the vision's basic frameworks, in light of the workshops' outcomes, and the policies and initiatives resulting from them, as well as the Fiscal Balance Programme.

HRH Premier asserted that the government's priorities in the coming period are sustainability of resources, maintaining economic growth, increasing Bahrain's competitive potentials and ensuring the citizens' access to the best and high-quality government services within a secure and stable atmosphere.

The Prime Minister also gave directives to ensure that the future strategy should be based on the principle of "the Priorities of the Government are the Priorities of the Citizen."

HRH the Premier highlighted the advanced positions achieved by the government, and entitled Bahrain to reach leadership status at the Arab and international levels, as proved by international indicators, affirming that the government's major challenge would be to maintain the development achievements, in all their forms, and to build on the solid foundations it had developed in order meet the citizens' needs.

HRH the Premier reviewed the govern-



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HRH PREMIER

ment's achievements within its action plan, especially regarding the economic, social and legislative themes.

"The economic situation is always a challenge for governments. It is our responsibility to double our efforts and accelerate the pace of action to deal with this challenge in light of the prevailing circumstances by enhancing the sense of collective and collective action and responsibility," HRH Premier said.

"Our major concerns while outlining the broad features of any future strategy are the interests of citizens and the coming generations, and the need to ensure them a stable living environment with high economic development," he added.

Joint drill 2018 kicks off

Manama

The joint air drill "Basic Liaison 2018" kicked off yesterday under the patronage of Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defence Force Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa.

The exercise is being carried out by the Royal Bahrain Air Force (RBAF) with the participation of air forces from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Oman, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, the UK and Pakistan are also taking part as observers.

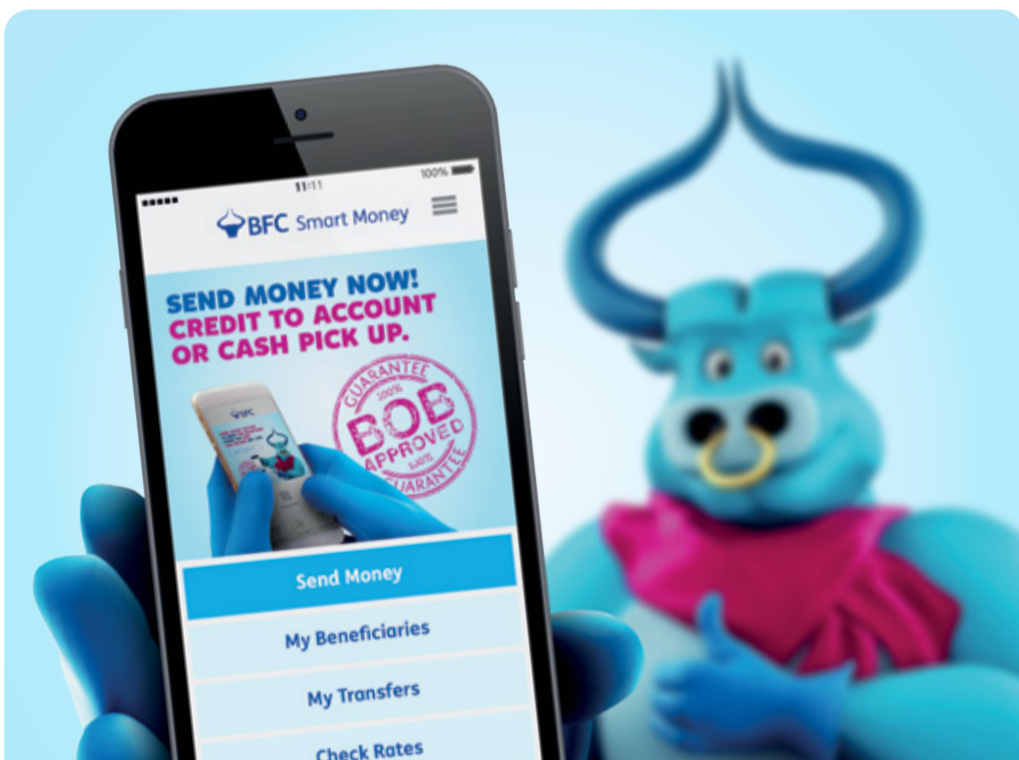
On arrival at Isa Air Base, the BDF Commander-in-Chief was welcomed by RBAF Commander Air Vice-Marshal Shaikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the drill Director and Heads of the participating delegations.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, the

RBAF Commander thanked the BDF Commander-in-Chief for patronising the opening of the exercise which is considered as one of the most important air drills implemented by RBAF.

He also pointed out that the exercise had been carried out for 30 years now.

Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, pointing out the big strides made by the air forces in the region in military work. He praised the achievements of RBAF and hailed participation of the air forces from brotherly and friendly countries, wishing them every success. He pointed out that only two countries participated in the first Liaison Drill 1988, commending large participation in the 30th edition of the exercise.



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