

# King stresses need to preserve heritage

His Majesty highlights Bahrain's standing on world cultural map



His Majesty receives Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Audrey Azoulay.

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**Manama**

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa said Bahrain remains committed to preserve its cultural legacies and rich heritage.

This came as His Majesty received Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage President Prince Sultan bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and UNESCO director-general Audrey Azoulay yesterday at Al Safriya Palace.

The audience was also attended by a UNESCO delegation, which arrived in Bahrain to take part in the opening ceremony of the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee.

Bahrain is chairing the 42nd session, being held under the auspices of HM the King and in the presence of 2,000



His Majesty along with guests watch special horse show.

experts specialised in cultural and natural heritage.

HM the King welcomed the guests, expressing Bahrain's pride in hosting this high-profile global cultural event, in the presence of an elite of experts working in the field of world heritage.

He said that Bahrain is hosting the crucial meeting as part of global efforts to build bridges of communication with all cultures and usher in new horizons for knowledge exchange between peoples.

He underlined Bahrain's standing

on the world cultural map, owing to its deep-rooted civilization, history and heritage, which are based on firm commitment to the values of tolerance and openness on all human civilisations. HM the King hailed steadily-growing cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UNESCO regarding education, heritage and culture. He reiterated Bahrain's support to the UNESCO-led efforts, human initiatives and activities.

He underlined Bahrain rich cultural and heritage legacy, being one of

the countries which are famed for the finest and purest natural pearls in the world. He commended the strenuous efforts led by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) to preserve national history, pointing out that Bahrain Fort and the Pearl Trail have been registered on the UNESCO List of World Heritage Sites.

HM the King wished the participants every success in the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee and a pleasant stay which will give them the opportunity to explore Bahrain's

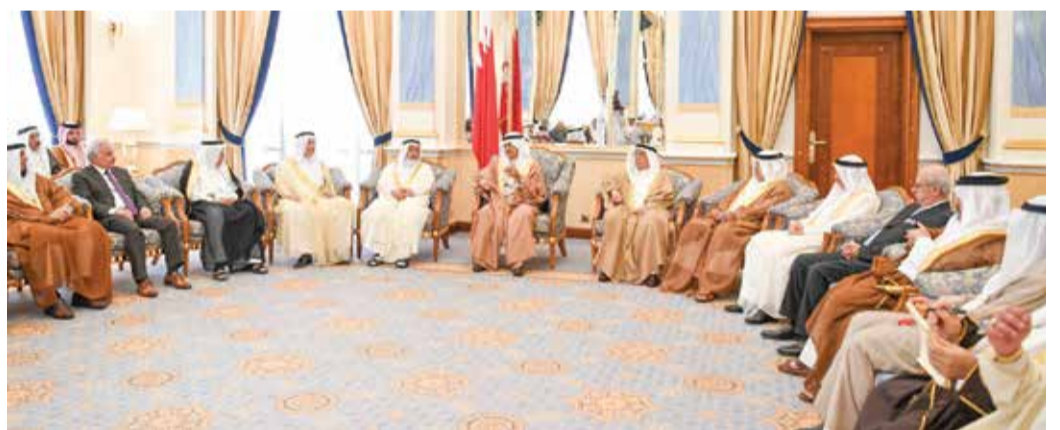
historical and cultural vestiges and visit its museums and heritage sites.

Audrey Azoulay and the participants expressed deepest thanks to HM the King for the warm welcome and kind hospitality, hailing Bahrain's role and efforts to conserve world heritage.

HM the King and the guests taking part in the 42nd session then watched a show of pure Bahraini Arabian breed horses which top the races. Bahrain, which is registered in the World Arabian Horse Organisation, boasts some of the finest and purest Arabian breed.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received the heads of Representatives and Shura councils at Gudaibiya Palace. HRH the Premier reviewed the implementation of royal directives to rethink pension plan draft. In conformity with the royal directives, a government-parliamentary committee has been formed to develop new visions that ensure maintaining the pension funds and citizens' rights.



His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received the intelligentsia, economic personalities, media persons and citizens at Gudaibiya Palace and discussed with them local and international issues. HRH the Premier affirmed success of His Majesty the King to maintain national unity and prevent any attempt to tamper with it. He said national unity and social cohesion have remained strong under the leadership of HM the King, stressing resolve to preserve the kingdom's pioneering status despite all challenges.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of HM the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) yesterday received the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Audrey Azoulay. HRH Princess Sabeeka stressed the importance of UNESCO's efforts to create suitable conditions for enhancing dialogue among civilisations, cultures and peoples on bases of respect for common values to achieve the global visions for sustainable development.



On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday attended the inauguration of the 42nd meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee, held at Bahrain National Museum. HRH the Crown Prince affirmed that the opportunity to host the 42nd edition of this event reflects an important milestone in the Kingdom's efforts to promote its long-standing historical and cultural identity underpinned by HM the King's continuous support.