

Rigorous selection process

Crown Prince’s International Scholarship Program begins assessing applications of 1,254 young Bahraini students

- **Final 10 scholarship recipients will be announced in April next year**
- **Program evaluates candidates’ English language and critical reasoning skills**
- **Applicants abroad to take tests under supervised conditions at appropriate location**

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The Crown Prince’s International Scholarship Program (CPISP) has started the assessment process for 1,254 scholarship applicants from governmental and private schools, and Bahrainis studying abroad. The program cooperated with Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) to assess candidates’ English language and critical reasoning skills. CPISP Director of Finance and Administration Affairs Shatha

Ahmed Ali noted that the assessment included a computer-based test of English Proficiency, in addition to three critical reasoning tests to assess verbal, numerical, and diagrammatical reasoning. For applicants currently studying outside of Bahrain, the program arranged for applicants to take the tests under supervised conditions at an appropriate location. Ali highlighted that the next step will be to select a minimum of 60 candidates based on the results of the qualifying tests and their Grade Point Average (GPA). The candidates will then undergo various training and preparation courses for standardised testing throughout the summer and the next academic year until the final 10 recipients, five males and five females, are selected in April 2023.

Nurturing minds

The Crown Prince’s International Scholarship Program aims to nurture the minds of future generations through education. The Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime



Evaluation of applicants’ credentials is underway

Minister, established the CPISP in 1999 to guide Bahrain’s young people into the 21st century. Under the programme, the most able high school students from Bahrain are awarded scholarships to continue their higher education overseas, and return to productively contribute to the development of Bahrain. The program provides Bahrain’s most gifted and talented youth the opportunity to learn at the finest international educational institutions. Further, it provides its scholars with career development support and training; equipping

them with the necessary tools to become effective decision makers who contribute to Bahrain’s development, both nationally and globally. The program is privately funded by HRH Prince Salman and various local and international sponsoring organisations and individuals who share HRH’s vision of equipping outstanding young Bahrainis with the necessary tools to excel and achieve their aspirations and contribute to the building of a modern Bahraini state.

Selection criteria



To qualify, Bahraini students set to graduate in 2023 should have a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 97% over the course of Grade 10 and the first semester of Grade 11.

Ten fully funded university scholarships are awarded on an annual basis to young men and women from both governmental and private secondary schools, based on their academic merit. The selection criteria include SAT and IELTS scores, Grade Point Average (GPA), and results of training programs organised by the CPISP.

Since its inception, over 160 of Bahrain’s brightest high school graduates have been selected to pursue higher education degrees at top international universities around the world. The program provides its scholars with training and a solid international educational foundation, in addition to continuous opportunities to gain work experience and international cultural exposure. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with all scholars sponsored by the CPISP during their holiday breaks in Bahrain to personally follow up on their progress. Scholars choose their own desired field of study and accredited university they gain acceptance to, provided that it is outside of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the region, to ensure international cultural exposure. The CPISP provides its scholars with internships and career development guidance, and facilitates them with job placement after graduation. The program organises courses and training for all qualifying candidates applying for scholarships, as part of the overall selection process.

CSB stresses temporary employment rights

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The total number of temporary employees in ministries and government agencies under the Civil Service Law is 87 in a number of different government agencies. This was confirmed by the Civil Service Bureau (CSB), adding that the temporary employee’s contract renewal or shifting to permanent employment is referred to the government agency.

AI and renewable energy virtual conference is set

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

Bahrain’s first International virtual conference of ‘Artificial Intelligence in Sustainability and Renewable Energy’ will be held on Thursday in association between International Group of Artificial Intelligence and the Indian Embassy. In a statement issued to media, Jassim Haji, Chairman of the Conference and President of International Group of Artificial Intelligence, stated: “We are grateful to the Indian Em-



bassy and Piyush Srivastava, the ambassador for their association and support to Artificial Intelligence and Sustainability within the Kingdom.”

He added: “We are also delighted to organise the conference during the 50th year anniversary of Bahrain-India Diplomatic relation.” The conference will be moderated by Arun Shanker from GEC, Dubai and participation of Dr Chiranjiv Roy and Vineet Agarwal from SG, India and Dr Shah Nawaz Khan and Sini Raj Pulari from Bahrain Polytechnic with Dalal Buhmeida as MC. The conference will discuss AI in Sustainability Analytics, AI in Agriculture and AI for Sustainable Future.

Frontline volunteers to receive bonuses soon

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A new batch of frontline volunteers will be paid their bonuses soon, said the Ministry of Health in a statement. The ministry has already deposited bonuses in the bank accounts of previous batches of volunteers who were among the frontliners combating the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The statement was in response to reports circulated in local newspapers and social media, alleging that some volunteers have yet to be paid



their bonuses. The ministry commended all national efforts which were exerted by frontliners to serve the nation and citizens, combat the pandemic and protect people’s health and safety. It noted that it had paid financial dues and bonuses rewards to multiple groups of volunteers and national cadres who contributed to combating the pandemic, after all lists of recipients had been subjected to evaluation and review, in coordination with the competent authorities.

COURT STORIES

Court drops embezzlement charge against exchange company employee

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The High Criminal Court of Appeal acquitted an exchange company employee of embezzlement of funds, in a case where eight employees were convicted of stealing BD346. Lawyer Zuhair Abdul Latif, who represents the only defendant found not guilty, stated that the incident occurred between 2018 and 2019, and that the first defendant used his position to steal the money. “He supplied the remaining defendants with customer information for transferring sums to India without the customers attending the exchange. They

would add a letter, number or symbol to the name of the beneficiary to avoid name repetition which alerts the money laundering control system,” the lawyer explained. “Then the first defendant approved the transfers from the account of the aggrieved company, embezzling these funds instead of depositing them to the company.” Lawyer Zuhair stated that the third defendant was tasked with falsifying financial reports in order to conceal a budget shortfall while the remaining defendants put the data into the company system. However, regarding the Public Prosecution referring to his

client among the accused, he argued that the elements of criminal contribution were missing by way of agreement and assistance, indicating the lack of connection between his client and the main defendant in the case. He noted the accounting report that suggests the unlikelihood of his client having any role in the embezzlement. The court declared the case papers to be absent of certain evidence to confirm the guilt of the second defendant of the accusation attributed to him, excluding for hearsay. There is no material evidence which proves the second defendant’s involvement, thus his innocence was ruled.

Young man acquitted of embezzlement due to lack of evidence: Lower Criminal Court

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The Lower Criminal Court acquitted a young man of embezzling movables belonging to a company after questioning the authenticity of the accusation against him. The court asserted that criminal rulings are based on certainty rather than guesswork. The Public Prosecution accused him of embezzling the movables described in the report, owned by an electronics company and given to him on a free-to-use basis, to the detriment of the right holders. The defendant’s lawyer, Dr Mohamed Al Kooheji, said his client was accused of stealing two computers, a hard disk con-

taining sensitive information, an external hard drive for the company’s storage, a controller with a USB memory stick, company keys, a key to the outer fence and the main office key. The accusation was directed against him by his employer after the end of their contractual relationship. **Review** Dr Al Kooheji pleaded the civil nature of the dispute before the court, urging to review the statements of the aggrieved party’s attorney, since the report concerns equipment that was in the custody of the defendant which he allegedly did not return, challenging the validity of this false claim.

Since the relationship between the two parties is a professional relationship, the dispute is thus coloured by the civil aspect, in addition to the fact that the defendant did not receive the equipment nor is there a record of such, he described. Dr Al Kooheji added that the report contains a contradiction that confirms the aggrieved party’s intent to frame the defendant. “The violation was reported more than seven and a half months after the termination of the working relationship on 30 November 2020, which indicates the aggrieved party’s scheme to accuse the defendant of embezzlement,” Dr Al Kooheji explained.