

Deputy Prime Minister hails RCSI-Bahrain role

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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa has praised the advanced medical and educational contributions provided by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland-Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI-Bahrain).

Shaikh Khalid commended RCSI-Bahrain's good reputation nearly two decades ago, saying it is among the most prestigious medical universities in the world, thanks to the quality of its programs and outputs.

Receiving RCSI President Prof. Laura Viani, he praised RCSI-Bahrain's role in meeting the needs of the health sector in the Kingdom and the region by providing well-qualified graduates ready to engage in the labour market according to the highest standards.

Shaikh Khalid briefed her on the planned expansion by adding a research centre powered by solar energy.

Prof. Viani thanked Shaikh Khalid for the support accorded to RCSI-Bahrain and stressed the college's diligent keenness to develop its programs for the students representing 45 nationalities.

Historic meet

Bahrain hosts first Negev Summit Steering Committee meeting



Dr Shaikh Abdulla with Mr Alon Ushpiz and other delegation heads from the UAE, Morocco, Egypt and the US at the press conference

Participants agree to further coordinate collective efforts for region's development

Staff Reporter
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The Kingdom yesterday hosted the first Negev Summit Steering Committee meeting at Sofitel Hotel Bahrain.

The meeting is the first in a long series of events planned, following the Negev Summit on March 28, 2022, in which Israel hosted the foreign ministers of Bahrain, the UAE, Egypt, Morocco

and the US.

Speaking to members of the media following the meeting, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Dr Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said the meeting focused on a view for the future and next generation.

"The unified core objectives discussed include deepening relations, expanding interdependence, promoting joint ventures and strategic cooperation."

Dr Shaikh Abdulla said that working groups will be constituted for major areas including clean energy, education and co-existence, food and water security, health, regional security and tourism.

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- DR SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN AHMED AL KHALIFA, FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER-SECRETARY

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Terming the meeting as a 'proactive engagement', Dr Shaikh Abdulla said the presidency of the meeting will be rotated between the participating nations. "The ministerial meeting will be held on an annual basis. We are all determined to build on the success of all people, who call the Middle East their home."

Israeli Foreign Ministry Director-General Alon Ushpiz read out the joint statement before the media members after the meeting.

"The meeting decided to fur-

ther coordinate collective efforts for the development of the region. While demonstrating the strength of relations, we will be able to accomplish common goals that can be achieved by working together. The participating nations will continue to exert efforts to achieve comprehensive peace."

He said the working groups will meet on a regular basis for the benefit of the people and the region. "There will also be great focus on improving the life and quality of Palestinian people."

Earlier at the Negev Summit, Foreign Ministers of Bahrain, Israel, the UAE, Egypt, Morocco and the US worked on ways to address their shared challenges and interests.

Israel 'to join hands with Arab countries to address food crisis'

Staff Reporter
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Israel will join hands with Arab countries to address the food crisis in the region, said Oded Joseph, Deputy Director-General of Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of Middle East and Peace Process Division.

Exclusively speaking to The Daily Tribune, Mr Oded, who was here in the Kingdom yesterday to take part in the first Negev Summit Steering Committee meeting at Sofitel Hotel Bahrain, said on the sidelines of the event, that global food crisis is going to have a big impact on the region and Israel along with the US is putting the best efforts to address the issue.

"Food security figures as a top priority in the bilateral ties between Israel and Arab countries including Bahrain.

"Israel can share its technical expertise in food cultivation and storage, which will be definitely helpful for Bahrain and other countries in the region to ad-



Mr Oded during an interaction with The Daily Tribune

dress the issues related to food security.

"At today's meeting, a working group has been constituted to deal with food and water security and this highlights the seriousness of the participants are attaching to the issue."

On strengthening people-to-people relations, Mr Oded said it constituted one of the cor-

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- ODED JOSEPH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ISRAELI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HEAD OF MIDDLE EAST AND PEACE PROCESS DIVISION

nerstones of the bilateral ties. "As we speak, we have an academic delegation coming to the Kingdom, which will see many researchers and academicians interacting with their counterparts and students in the Kingdom. We will also see cultural figures from Israel including musicians and artists coming to the Kingdom. So, people-to-people relations

and human connections will be enhanced encompassing the entire spectrum."

When asked about bringing more Arab nations under the diplomatic umbrella, Mr Oded said one of the major objectives of Israeli Foreign Policy is to expand the circle of normalization of ties with more nations in the region.

Highlighting on the need to have joint strategies to address security threats, Mr Oded said: "Another issue the participants have agreed on is creating a regional security architecture to address all kinds of security threats including the ones from Iranian regime. What we must understand is that this is not a coalition against a particular nation or regime, but it is a gathering to address many issues including the security threats faced by the region."

Mr Oded is a senior member of the Israeli diplomatic team. Formerly, he led many successful diplomatic missions during the tenures as the envoy to Kenya and many other African countries.

Fulad commends Bahrain Alternative Penalties and Open Prisons programme

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The Bahrain Human Rights Watch Society (BHRWS) organised a seminar entitled "Kingdom of Bahrain: The Alternative Penalties and Open Prisons in Bahrain" yesterday in Geneva.

Experts and human rights activists as well as international non-government organisations (NGOs) took part in the seminar which is held from 13 June to 8 July at the Palais des Nations.

BHRWS Secretary General Faisal Fulad presented a paper at the event where he discussed about the Alternative Penalties and Open Prisons programme in the Kingdom.

According to Fulad, the people, families as well as families of convicts in Bahrain pay tribute and support the programme.

Around 3,836 individuals in Bahrain have benefited from the alternative penalties based on the latest statistics. The rate of recommitting crimes after the end of the penalty has reached 4%.

Fulad commended the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to put in place the necessary executive and legislative mechanisms for the programme.

He described the move as a reflection of the kingdom's keenness to protect and promote the human rights system and a model to emulate



Faisal Fulad

according to international standards.

The top BHRWS official also noted that Bahrain's efforts and tireless endeavour to develop the criminal justice system and foster human rights is an extension of the success of the alternative penalties programme as a national, civilisational and humanitarian project.

The Interior Ministry has taken several steps to expand the implementation of the alternative penalties, including following up the cases of convicts after they served their alternative penalties.

The expansion also covers online training and rehabilitation, community service work in cooperation with the private section and a computer system to link all concerned authorities to get daily reports on the beneficiaries.

Likewise, Fulad stressed the importance of the move in rehabilitating the wrongdoers and reintegrate them in the community according to well-defined regulations.

COURT STORY

African arrested for posting indecent video on social media

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The Anti-Human Trafficking Directorate arrested a 22-year-old African national for posting an indecent video on social media, the Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science Director-General has announced.



Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

Asian national is held for possessing narcotics worth more than BD7,000

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The Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science has arrested a 36-year-old Asian national for possessing narcotics.

An investigation into re-

ceived information led to identifying and arresting the suspect and confiscation of narcotics locally known as "shabu" and marijuana worth more than BD7,000.

Legal proceedings were taken to refer the case the Public Prosecution.