

# Allocate time for sports activities on Feb 7: PM



HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa (C) chairing the cabinet session yesterday at the Gudaibiya Palace

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## Manama

**P**rim Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday directed ministries and government departments to allocate half of the working hours on February 7 for sports activities to mark the National Sports Day.

The Premier made the

statements as he chaired the regular weekly Cabinet session at the Gudaibiya Palace yesterday.

The Prime Minister also directed to hold sporting events on the day for their employees in order to achieve the athletic, health and social goals of the National Sports Day, promote the concept of sports for all and raise awareness on the importance of sports for the society.

## Skydiving championship

Prince Khalifa welcomed the Kingdom's hosting of the World Indoor Skydiving Championship in 2018, organised by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (The World Air Sports Federation) as a prestigious sporting event that will consolidate Bahrain's status in the sport and tourism fields.

In this regard, the efforts

put in by the Board Chairman of Gravity Company, Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Khalifa, for supporting Bahrain's bid to host the global sporting event, was lauded.

## Port to be strengthened

The Cabinet discussed ways to strengthen the competitiveness of the Khalifa bin Salman Port in the region by increasing its container and freight handling capacity as well as

its services.

In this regard, the session reviewed a report submitted by the operating company of the Khalifa bin Salman port, a memorandum presented by the Deputy Premier and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Financial Affairs and Rationalisation of Expenditure, and a report by the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications regarding the maritime facility.

## HM King issues Royal Orders

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**H**is Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued Royal Decree 6/2017 restructuring the board of trustees of Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies presided over by Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

Dr. Ahmed Hashim Al Yosha, Dr. Waheeb Isa Al Nasser, Ambassador Tawfiq Ahmed Al Mansour, Dr. Abdulrahman Abdulhussain Jawahery, Dr. Khalifa Ali Al Fadhel were appointed to the board of trustees. Their membership will be for four years. Any provision in contravention of the provisions of this order has been cancelled.

Based on Royal Decree 7/2017, Dr. Shaikha Mariam bint Hassan Al Khalifa, Dr. Faisal Yaqoub Al Hamer, Dr. Abdullah Yousef Taleb, Dr. Jameela Mansour Al Sammak and Ali Ahmed Al Derazi were appointed as representatives of the Kingdom to the Consultative Authority at the Arabian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States' Supreme Council. They will serve for three years.

## Dual passport holders urged to correct status

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**C**itizens who have nationalities other than that of Bahrain are requested to contact the passport office at the Security Service Complex in Muharraq to rectify their status before the deadline on February 4 in order to avoid legal action and fine, announced Acting Director of Nationality and Passport Affairs of the Nationality, Passport and Residence Affairs (NPRA), Lieutenant-Col. Bader Rashid Al Binfalal.

"Bahrainis who obtained foreign citizenship before the endorsement of the Nationality Law, are required to disclose their second nationality," the director said.

"Those who reside outside the country can either come to Bahrain or assign legal representatives through a request submitted to the Interior Minister's office," he added.

Forms can be obtained via [www.npra.bh](http://www.npra.bh) or the passport office at the Security Services Complex. Required documents must also be provided.

# Harvesting 'water' from thin air

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### Manama

**A**s most of the countries in the world are facing acute water shortage, a scientist is hoping to solve Middle East's water scarcity issues with his invent which draws water from air.

AP Verheggen, the inventor of 'DC03', believes his technology is the solution for the Middle East to overcome a water shortage crisis.

He is currently in the Kingdom thanks to a Bahraini who was amazed by his invention and encouraged him to begin discussions with the authorities here.

In an interview with *DT News*, he explains how the technology works and how it can be used effectively in the Kingdom.

"DC03' which is powered by sunlight, extracts water from air. The device is extremely cheap and simple and is of a huge benefit for drought

affected countries. The device was build without expensive converting technology," Verheggen said.

## Bahrain 'ideal place'

The climatic conditions in the Kingdom is well suited for DC03, according to Verheggen.

"The extreme hot summers in Bahrain are not an obstacle to build devices that could work perfectly. The DC03 is a small-scale and cheap concept.

We have some excellent ideas to build larger installations which can produce cubic meters of fresh water. It works with different technology that is more efficient. But to develop these machines another investment is required as they have to be built from scratch," he says.

"In the future every household in Bahrain will have their own SolarWater system that produces water for personal usage. It's only a matter of taking the first steps."

"With DC03, everybody can benefit from a cheap, off-grid water production unit in a couple of year," he added.

## Closed Greenhouse concept

Verheggen also believes to transform the agriculture sector in the Kingdom to a level that does not need to source additional water.

"We have designed an advanced idea of a closed greenhouse. Water in the greenhouse can be recycled and additional water extracted from air. The water production unit generates hot and separately cold air, which can be used to cool or heat the greenhouse. So, in a couple of years Bahrain could present a greenhouse that generates its own climate and works autonomously."

The scientist is currently searching for a fund improve his concept by pooling ideas from young minds all over the world.

"I want to inspire people with my creative and innovative ideas. I have published all technology of the DC03 concept open source on my website. I am searching for funding to start a worldwide competition between universities to improve the concept."



'DC03' which is powered by sunlight, extracts water from air