

## King thanked

HIS Majesty King Hamad yesterday received a cable of thanks from Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba, in reply to a cable of congratulations marking his country's National Day.

## Forum success hailed

HIS Majesty received a cable of thanks from Shura Council chairman Ali Saleh Al Saleh – on behalf of participants in the Seventh Conference of Association of Senates, Shura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World. Mr Saleh hailed the forum's success and thanked the leadership for the warm welcome and genuine hospitality.

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier, received similar cables.

## Premier issues edict

THE Premier yesterday issued an edict appointing Yusuf Ahmed Nour Sunni endowments director. He also named Shaima Abdulrahman Abdulla Al Hamed technical and broadcasting department director at the Information Affairs Authority (IAA). Yusuf Mohammed Ismael has been promoted to the position of IAA media director.

## New school timings

EIGHT intermediate schools will start implementing new timings from the beginning of the next academic year, on an experimental basis. Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi yesterday met parents at Hidd Intermediate School for Girls and updated them on the new time format.

## Plans discussed

MINISTER of State for Electricity and Water Affairs Dr Abdulhussain Mirza yesterday received Shura Council member Nancy Dinah Khedouri and discussed plans to promote services.

## Budget delay worry

SHURA Council financial and economic affairs committee head Khalid Al Muscati yesterday stressed the importance of completing the draft budget for 2013-2014 to maintain stability of the economy. He said the committee met Finance Minister Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa to review options available to approve the budget.

## Envoy attends forum

BAHRAIN'S Ambassador to China Bibi Sayed Sharaf Al Alawi took part in the 10th session of the Sino-Arab Co-operation Forum in Beijing yesterday. It was chaired by the Deputy Foreign Minister and Foreign Ministry department of West Asia and North Africa director general, Chen Xiaodong, while the Arab side was chaired by Deputy Foreign Minister of Egypt Amr Abu Ata.

## Labour issues discussed

LABOUR Ministry Under-Secretary Sabah Salim Al Dosary yesterday chaired a meeting with the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions (GFBTU) and stressed the importance of promoting co-operation to boost private sector productivity, sustained development and labour market stability. He underlined the need for talks with private sector companies and stressed the importance of promoting production and protecting workers' rights. The session also discussed the importance of negotiations to settle pending labour disputes.

## 215,227 enter Bahrain

A TOTAL of 215,227 people entered Bahrain between May 23 and last Wednesday – of which 177,345 crossed the King Fahad Causeway, 37,576 landed at Bahrain International Airport and 297 arrived via Khalifa bin Salman Port.



■ BDF Commander-in-Chief Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday met Royal Guard Commander Colonel Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and hailed his efforts to develop the Royal Guard's administrative progress and combat skills.



■ Interior Minister Lieutenant-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa yesterday received parliament second deputy chairman Adel Abdulrahman Al Maawda and discussed co-operation to maintain national security and stability.



■ Royal Court Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday received British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia John Jenkins and the head of Arabian Peninsula and Iraq Department at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Sarah Price, and discussed bilateral relations. Present was British Ambassador Iain Lindsay.



■ Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Abdulla Abdullatif Abdulla yesterday received Ms Price and Mr Lindsay. Historical ties between the two countries were discussed. Mr Abdulla highlighted the steps taken by Bahrain to protect human rights and stressed the kingdom's commitment to reform and development. The meeting also discussed other regional and international issues of mutual concern.



■ Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary for regional and GCC affairs Hamad Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Amer yesterday received outgoing Iranian charge d'affaires Mahdi Islami – at his request. The Iranian diplomat thanked the ministry for its co-operation. Mr Al Amer shared his hopes of improving ties with Iran based on principles of Islam and values of good neighbourliness. He also stressed the importance of respecting the sovereignty of countries.

## Clamp on fraudsters

THE government may soon take stringent action against fraudsters and entities floating fraudulent investment schemes in the kingdom.

Shura Council's foreign affairs defence and national security committee has approved an article criminalising fraudulent investments, for inclusion in the Penal Code.

Under the proposed amendment, fraudsters and fictitious investors

would face jail sentences or fines of no less than BD100,000 and no more than double the value of the embezzled money or any of the penalties.

Conmen will have to repay victims and their criminal revenues will also be seized.

Those collecting money as agents, mediators or salesmen, would, under the amendment, face jail sentences and fines up to BD50,000 or any of the penalties.



■ Four Al Rawabi School students, who participated in an art competition in the Czech Republic, received certificates during a ceremony at the Czech Republic Consulate in A'ali. It was attended by Riyadh-based Czech Ambassador Dr Lubomir Hladik, school owner Awatif Radhi, principal Souad Thayeb, manager Amani Al Radhi and teaching staff. The students, aged eight to 12, who got the Honourable Mention Award were Mohammad Abbas, Jenan Maitham, Noor Abdulmohsen and Karim Fuad.



■ Hundreds of people attended a Sufi music concert last night at the Cultural Hall, near Bahrain National Museum. The Strings and Vibrations programme is part of a festival organised by Indian Fine Arts Society (IFAS) Bahrain. Indian Sufi singer Ragini Rainu and santoor maestro and music composer Pandit Bhajan Sapoori performed. The event is part of a festival that continues tomorrow with a show focusing on the evolution of Kathak dance at the same venue from 7pm.

## Club activities conclude...

ACTIVITIES of evening school clubs for this year concluded yesterday, with a closing ceremony at the Al Khaleej Al Arabi Girls Intermediate School.

More than 130 students and their parents from 13 clubs across the kingdom took part.

The ceremony featured an exhibition of achievements made by the students – including handicrafts and science experiments.

Theatrical performances were also held.

The ceremony was organised by the students' services department of the Education Ministry.

Students said the clubs played a vital role in developing their skills and talents in all areas, and contributed to raising their academic achievements through enriching lessons.

The activities will continue during the next academic year.

The clubs are open from 4pm to 6.30pm three days a week.