

Premier thanked

HIS Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received a cable of thanks from Thai Premier Prayut Chan-ocha in reply to a cable of congratulations marking his election.

Historic relations discussed

FOREIGN Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday received British Ambassador Iain Lindsay and discussed historic ties and issues of mutual concern. He separately met French Ambassador Bernard Régnault-Fabre and discussed bilateral relations.

Company chief received

MINISTER of State for Electricity and Water Affairs Dr Abdulhussain Mirza yesterday received Caspian Renewable Energy president and chief executive Marty Youssefiani and discussed efforts to bolster co-operation.

Lifeline to Somalia

ROYAL Charity Organisation secretary general Dr Mustafa Al Sayed yesterday arrived in Somalia to inaugurate Bahrain's aid projects. He was welcomed by Minister of Culture and Higher Education Dr Duale Adam Mohammed, Health Minister Dr Ali Harir, adviser to the Somali President Dr Taher Ghili and senior officials. Bahrain's development projects in aid of drought-hit Somalia include the Bahrain Specialist Hospital, Bahrain Scientific Complex-Mogadishu National University and 10 water wells across the country. The kingdom also helped treat more than 4,000 Somali patients suffering from cataracts. It also sent relief consignments including more than two tonnes of medical and food items.

Chinese links praised

PARLIAMENT chairman Dr Khalifa Al Dhahrani yesterday hailed the visit of a high-level Chinese delegation, led by chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference Yu Zhengsheng, to Bahrain. This came as he received Chinese Ambassador Li Chen. Dr Al Dhahrani said Bahraini-Chinese relations are progressing steadily in the political, economic and cultural fields, stressing the importance of exchanging parliamentary expertise and visits between friendship committees. He also lauded China's supportive stance towards Bahrain and its keenness to safeguard its stability and sovereignty.

Trade exchanges in focus

CUSTOMS chief, World Customs Organisations (WCO) vice-president and regional representative for North Africa, the Near and Middle East Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa yesterday attended in Abu Dhabi the meeting of a team in charge of drawing up the regional executive training plan 2014-2016. Shaikh Mohammed met UAE Minister of State for Financial Affairs Obaid Hameed Al Tayar on the sidelines of the meeting. UAE Federal Customs Authority (FCA) director-general Khalid Ali Al Bustani also attended the meetings. They discussed bilateral trade exchanges and streamlined customs procedures.

Judicial experts' role hailed

SUPREME Judicial Council president and Cassation Court adviser Salem bin Mohammed Al Kuwari yesterday received international expert in developing judicial systems Pim Albers, director of the Middle East and North Africa programmes at the American Bar Association (ABA) Carla Koffel and ABA legal expert Dr Aseel Zimmo. He hailed their technical assistance in carrying out the council's strategic plan, assessing the Judges of the Future Project and contributing to working out a training programme while availing of the experiences of the Netherlands Institute in this respect.

Abuse complaints probed

THE Special Investigation Unit received five complaints on allegations of torture and four complaints on allegations of maltreatment into which an official investigation has been launched. The unit listened to a complaint by Naziha Saeed against three policemen on alleged mistreatment and an investigation is underway. The unit also listened to 20 complainants in separate cases and appointed its special coroner for medical examination in three cases. It also listened to three witnesses and questioned 20 suspects from the Public Security forces. The unit referred two suspects in two separate cases to the Fourth Lower Criminal Court on charges of physical assault. The cases will be heard by the court on November 11, acting attorney general and unit president Ibrahim Al Kuwari said.

Embezzlement trial date set

THE Public Prosecution has completed its investigation into the case of a Health Ministry employee accused of embezzlement. Chief Prosecutor Nawaf Al Awadhi said the suspect, who is in charge of co-ordinating appointments at a health centre, had allegedly pocketed medical service fees paid by expatriates by using old prescriptions after removing stickers and replacing them with others. Investigations revealed that some prescriptions had two stickers while others had the original sticker removed and replaced with another one. The suspect confessed to the charges and has been remanded in custody. He will stand trial at the High Criminal Court on December 1 on charges of embezzlement of public money and using forged official documents.

Society to monitor elections

THE High Elections Committee yesterday received an official request from Bahraini Hiwar Society to monitor the elections on November 22. Society vice-president Rashid Al Ghayeb has been appointed head of the monitoring team to co-ordinate with the committee. The society's monitoring team members have joined a series of intensive workshops on monitoring rules and regulations.



■ The King in talks with Rt Rev Michael Lewis

Bahrain's religious tolerance highlighted

HIS Majesty King Hamad yesterday highlighted Bahrain's long-standing status as a crossroad for religions and civilisations and a beacon of communication and tolerance.

"Bahrain, which embraces all people without any discrimination, will always be a model of co-existence and amity between all religions and doctrines on this land," he said as he received Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf Bishop Rt Rev Michael Lewis.

He hailed the bishop's humanitarian efforts

to promote the values of goodness, amity and tolerance.

The King lauded Bahrainis who have long shown, all along their deep-rooted history, their spirit of tolerance and amity, welcoming the followers of other religions, and hailed their awareness, civilisation and firm belief in lofty human principles.

They reviewed issues that contribute to disseminating a culture of dialogue and tolerance between all monotheist religions as well as

commitment to moderation and renunciation of extremism.

The King highlighted Bahrain's pioneering initiatives in hosting conferences that contribute to fostering the culture of rapprochement, dialogue and co-existence between all religions and guaranteeing religious liberties.

"Bahrain is embracing all people in a closely-knit and peace-loving society, thanks to the King's leadership," Rt Rev Michael Lewis said.



■ The Crown Prince with the Russian ambassador

Strong Russia ties pledge

HIS Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday met Russian Ambassador Victor Smirnov.

He highlighted the steady growth of bilateral relations and emphasised the role of His Majesty's recent visit to Russia in further enhancing co-operation between the two countries. He

also stressed the importance of implementing agreements signed during the King's visit as well as those signed during his visit in April this year, to transform their positive outcomes into action that benefit both countries.

The Crown Prince praised the launch of Gulf Air's direct flights to Moscow, saying the direct transport link significantly contributes to growing economic and commercial ties.



■ The Crown Prince yesterday stressed the need to step up joint GCC action in the field of energy and explore alternative sustainable resources in support of development. This came as he received UAE Minister of State, member of the federal government, chief executive of Energy at Mubadala and chairman of Abu Dhabi Company for Future Energy Dr Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber and Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei. The Crown Prince hailed strong co-operation as part of GCC integration in various fields. He lauded the UAE for its considerable contributions to international energy sectors as well as expertise in the field of renewable energy. Present were Deputy Premiers Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa and Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.



■ Deputy Premier Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa yesterday chaired the 56th meeting of the Education and Training Development Committee. The panel discussed students' performances in national exams, and reviewed steps taken by the Education Ministry to improve the educational system by developing curricula and rehabilitating teachers in partnership with international institutions. The committee underlined the importance of holding frequent meetings between the ministry and the National Authority of Qualifications and Quality Assurance for Education and Training.



■ BDF Commander-in-Chief Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday received Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command and US Fifth Fleet Vice Admiral John Miller and discussed military co-operation.



■ Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ghanim Al Buainain yesterday received a European Union delegation, including Italian Ambassador Alberto Vecchi, French Ambassador Bernard Regnaud-Fabre and EU chargé d'affaires in Riyadh Efthymios Costopoulos. He affirmed Bahrain's keenness to further develop co-operation with EU member states. The ambassadors praised the democratic climate in Bahrain coinciding with the upcoming elections as well as the kingdom's outstanding role in backing peace and stability at regional and international levels. The minister separately received UN Information Centre director for the GCC Nejb Friji and discussed co-operation.

Global outreach for 'Bahrain TV'

BAHRAIN TV has started broadcasting its programmes among a bouquet of other Arab channels as part of plans to expand its global outreach.

The Information Affairs Authority gave the go-ahead for the channel to broadcast its programmes on four satellites which target Arab-speaking communities around the world – in a move co-ordinated with the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (Arabsat) officials.

Viewers can watch Bahrain TV programmes on satellites "Galaxy 19", "HISPASAT 1", "AsiaSat-5" and "Arabsat 5C", which cover North and South America, Asia and Africa.