# Hi-tech revamp for Bahrain TV studio

BAHRAIN TV's main production studio is to be upgraded at a cost of BD730,000.

The new-look studio is expected to be complete in the first quarter of next year.

Information Affairs Authority president Shaikh Fawaz bin Mohammed Al Khalifa yesterday signed an agreement with AurionPRO Solutions in this regard.

Bahrain TV's main studio will be fitted with cutting edge equipment to promote quality drama and artistic production in partnership with the private sector. "The agreement is part of projects to develop media work and promote quality TV programmes," Shaikh Fawaz said



■ Shaikh Fawaz with officials at the signing ceremony

## ■ Dismissal cases 'delayed'

THE Labour Ministry is allegedly delaying referral of cases of dismissed workers at Alba to the labour courts, despite knowing that the cases will end in compensation, sources told our sister paper Akhbar Al Khaleej. The dismissed workers have refused to accept alternative jobs A political society pays the salaries of the dismissed Alba workers, who follow its orders the sources said. The society is also ready to pay any worker who has been dismissed for taking part in protests, they said. Under the labour law, after a year of dismissal, a worker should choose between a settlement package and a court verdict.

### **■** E-service push

THE Housing Ministry, in co-operation with the Central Informatics Organisation, is set to update housing applicants' data electronically. The ministry has completed updating its website, to include applications for housing services through e-forms. with copies of required documents attached to the e-form, the ministry's comprehensive periodic report said. Cancelled report said. Cancelled housing applications will be revived following directives from His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, on the basis that the application has been cancelled due to transfer only. Three steps have been determined for housing allowance for revived applications: the allowance is to be disbursed five years after the date of the last application. The allowance which was granted before should continue. In the event of allocating loans and reviving the previous application, allowance is to paid five years after the application revival date.



■ Kuwaiti preacher Shaikh Nabeel Al Awadhi delivered a lecture at the Reform and Rehabilitation Centre. It was organised by the Interior Ministry in co-ordination with the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry as part of a series of lectures for prison inmates during Ramadan. Shaikh Nabil stressed the effect of the Quran on people, urging the inmates to read Quranic verses and grasp their deep meanings to realise the right path.

## Opposition 'is misleading US public opinion'

A LEADING US Congressman yesterday slammed Bahrain's opposition societies for misleading US public opinion, saying that more information must be collected on alleged violations and protests before policies are proposed.

Addressing the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in Washington, Senator Dan Burton, a senior member of the Congress Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia, said US leaders and the media must look closely instead of being misled by those who want to manipulate the truth.

He said the term unjustified attacks, which is often used by the media, serves the interests of only one party, which is the opposition in this situation, and it ignores the actions and reactions that occur on a smaller scale.

Senator Burton said he visited a policeman whose house was hit by Molotov cocktails, when his children were inside the house.

"The violence perpetrated by extremists and demonstrators prompt reaction

from the government," he said, pointing out that the US used teargas when demonstrators committed acts of violence.

The Congressman spoke about his visit to Bahrain University.

"I watched videos showing some of the students who were victims of violence by colleagues who had sided with the opposition."

Senator Burton pointed out Bahrain's initiative commissioning former Miami Police chief John Timoney to ensure policemen adhere to human rights.

He outlined the initiatives of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince to engage in a fruitful multiparty national dialogue, a step which was rejected by the opposition. "Violent protests are not a viable way to achieve desired change," he said, reaffirming Bahrain's status as a long-time strategic ally and partner of the US.

The session was attended by Congressmen Jim Moran, James B McGovern, Keith Ellison and Lynn Woolsey





■ A ghabga was hosted by 2Connect last night at the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain Hotel and Spa. It was attended by senior management, employees, guests and media personnel. Above, officials and guests at the event.

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A farewell reception was held by Banz Trading and Contracting for its retiring engineering department employee Rajab Ali Haji, who was presented a memento by human resources assistant manager Ali Al Aradi in recognition of his services in the presence of company management and employees. Above, Mr Haji, left, receives the award from Mr Al Aradi.