

Medical News

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GCC Military Medical Services Meeting Held

Commanders of the GCC Military Medical Services held their 10th meeting in Manama on the 23rd of June 2008. The meeting lasted for three days. A number of key issues aiming to boost joint cooperation and strengthen military medical ties were discussed. The meeting also reviewed the recommendations of the 9th meeting held in the UAE from April 22 to 25, 2007. A consultative session was also held on the sidelines to look into a proposal by Oman on medical cooperation set to be held in Saudi Arabia in November 2008. Expertise in modern medical care during conflicts and ways of responding to disasters and crises were reviewed in the meeting.

Aids Testing to be Anonymous

The first of a nationwide chain of anonymous Aids testing centers will be opened in Manama during the month of July; this was declared on the 15th of June 2008. Its location is yet to be finalized. Bahrain would be the second country in the region after Saudi Arabia to set up such centre. A new set of proposals are also to be considered for comprehensive Aids checks on Indian housemaids coming to work in Bahrain. This has been decided after it has been revealed that the majority of expatriate women suffering from Aids are Indian housemaids. A similar set of measures had been put in place a few years ago when it was revealed that the majority of expatriate women sufferers were housemaids from Ethiopia. There will be an enhanced level of vigil and more comprehensive tests as part of the measures. Among the Bahrainis Aids sufferers, 90 per cent were men. While it was revealed, most men got infected due to improper use of syringes; almost all the women were infected by their husbands. Three hundred and twenty-five Bahrainis and 500 non-Bahrainis had tested positive for Aids between 1986 and the end of 2006. The anonymous testing centers will help people otherwise afraid to come forward, for the fear of social stigma.

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Blood Donors Are Honored

Bahrain celebrated the World Blood Donor Day on the 14th of June, 2008. The day is held each year to honor and thank all those who donate their blood as well as to create awareness on the importance of voluntary unpaid donation. A ceremony was held by the Ministry of Health at the Novotel Hotel, where more than 100 regular donors, representatives of companies and others associated with donation campaigns were honored. Awards were presented by the ministry under-secretary Dr Abdulaziz Hamza. A blood donation camp was also organized by Al Amal Hospital, Hamad Town, on the same day in collaboration with the SMC blood bank; more than 85 people donated blood.

Alba Group Marks Awareness Week

Workers from Alba's Metal Production Group employees have been organizing a series of activities as part of the company's Health, Safety and Environment week. One of the events involved former smokers outlining the advantages they have experienced since giving up cigarettes and offering advice on how to quit. The group's general manager Mohammed Mahmoud launched the theme at a ceremony attended by employees. It also included hospital visits around Bahrain, blood donation campaigns and lectures. They addressed a variety of health issues including heat exhaustion, the importance of periodic medical check-ups, heart diseases and the risks associated with high blood pressure and diabetes as well as neck and back pains.