

Medical News

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The First National Health Promotion Forum

A new health promotion strategy for the country was drawn up during a two-day forum that started on the 23rd of January 2008. More than 170 participants representing 33 ministries and government organizations took part in the First National Health Promotion Forum. The forum was held at the Crowne Plaza, organized by the Health Ministry, under the patronage of the Minister Dr Faisal Al Hamer. The event, sponsored by the United Nations Development Program, aimed to draw up a comprehensive strategy that includes all government bodies.

Women Donate Blood for Charity

More than 400 women answered an appeal to donate blood on the 17th of January 2008 during the annual Imam Hussain Campaign for Blood at Naim Health Centre. One hundred sixty-two women donated blood while the rest were put on a waiting list for future need. They took part in the two-day blood camp to mark Ashoora. The camp, organized by Naim Charity Fund, is the biggest blood drive in the country. Four hundred women registered to donate last year, but 200 were enough to collect the required amount. Last year, more than 1,000 men registered, 650 were able to donate blood. Donated blood is sent directly to the Central Blood Bank.

KFH Honors Bahraini Dentists

The Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has honored Bahraini dentists who received post-graduate degrees during the last year. A ceremony was held at the company's headquarters in Manama. The general manager, Abdulhakeem Alkhayyat, and the head of Oral and Dental Health at the Ministry of Health, Dr Abbas Fardan, presented awards and certificates to 11 female and two male dentists. Mr Alkhayyat said the support comes as a result of KFH's belief in the role of doctors and professional societies in the development of the kingdom.

'Hand in Unused Medicines' Plea

A campaign to hand in unused medicines was launched on the 16th of January 2008 and lasted for 4 days. People were urged to hand in unused medicines so that they can be used

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by others. They were urged to hand over expired medicines at a temporary collection point, so that they can be safely disposed of. The Imam Zainalabeddin bin Al Hussain Medicines Collection Campaign was staged at the temporary Manama Information Centre, in the processions area near the Manama Market, around which four other collections points were also being set up. The campaign was being held in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the Bahrain Pharmacists Association and the Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife.

A BD1 Million Centre for Diabetics

Health officials have announced that a new BD1 million diabetes education centre will be established. The new centre will be based in A'ali and focus on diabetic education and rehabilitation. The three-Storey centre would include a swimming pool, a gym and the offices of the Bahrain Diabetes Society (BDS). Sponsors are currently being sought for the project. The number of people in Bahrain suffering from type-1 (insulin dependent) diabetes has more than doubled since 1993.

A Vascular Centre in Bahrain

A multi-million dinar vascular centre is being set up at the Salmaniya Medical Complex. Work on setting up the centre has already started and it is expected to be commissioned in the last quarter of 2008. The centre will be staffed by experts from all over the world and it will be a model for the GCC, said ministry of health sources. The centre will specialize in the diagnosis and management of peripheral vascular disease, and their complications. While the budget for the project has not been disclosed, sources said finances would 'not be a problem' since the government was looking for the 'very best' of medical facilities.

Boost for Elderly

A medical centre for the elderly, donated by Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo, was opened in January 2008. The centre has been built at a cost of BD 690, 000. The family handed over the project to the Ministry of Health in April last year; it was decided that the ministry will run the centre. The 2,100 square meter facility is located near the Salmaniya Medical Centre. The two-storey building has separate wards for men and women on the first floor. The outpatient and administration wing with utility services is on the ground floor. The centre is also equipped to conduct house calls for the elderly and will be provided with an ambulance service facility by the Ministry of Health.

Bahrain Maps Out Plan to Fight Bird Flu

Thousands of booklets about bird flu in three Asian languages plus Arabic and English have been distributed mainly among poultry farm workers and all those who come into contact with live birds. More than 1,000 poultry workers have already been vaccinated against influenza. The booklets list, among the general precautions, details on hygiene, how to handle birds, their segregation according to age as well as the proper way to sound an alert in case the need arises. Members of Bahrain's Anti-Bird Flu Committee have recently finished a refresher course to prepare them for any outbreak. Experts from

various organizations, including health, municipalities and agriculture ministries are part of the committee. A special ward set up to receive possible patients at the Salmaniya Medical Complex is well-stocked with state-of-the-art equipment to treat patients should they come in.