

## **Medical News Corner**

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### **Health Service offered**

The parliament proposed providing one physiotherapy unit in each of the country's five governorates. It was also backed by the Health Ministry, which said it had already been planning for it. It is expected that physiotherapy service could soon be offered across the country.

### **Health Ministry Farewell to 125 Staff**

A total of 125 retiring employees were honored by the Health Ministry in a ceremony at the Gulf Hotel's Gulf International Convention and Exhibition Centre on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, 2006. The ceremony was held under the patronage of Health Minister, who praised their efforts in advancing and improving the quality of healthcare in the country. They have served between 20 and 40 years at the ministry and received appreciation certificates from ministry Assistant Under-Secretary for Financial and Administrative Resources and were treated to a lunch banquet at the end of the ceremony.

### **Expert to probe SMC Deaths**

Specialists are in the process of being hired to determine the cause of death of patients at Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC). A strong action would be taken against any medical staff found to be responsible for patient fatalities. SMC currently has a complaints unit at the ministry, which has a specialized doctor and a legal consultant, to investigate any complaint against doctors, nurses or staff. There have been many complaints in the past that SMC was overcrowded and struggling to keep up with demand for hospital treatment. Therefore, the minister of health had lately declared that hospital expansion plans are in the pipeline. Among them is work on a new BD2.7 million, 30-bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) that is expected to begin in September 2006. The ministry will soon employ a specialized IT company to develop its Health Information System, which will receive BD1.5 million a year for 10 years; this is to ensure that the system is updated.

### **New Children's Tumor Unit**

A new children's tumor unit was opened in June 2006 at the Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC). The unit was built in 2004, but was not opened because its operation expenses were not included in the 2003-2004 budget. However, it had been included for this year's budget. The new unit has six beds and six treatment rooms, a medical laboratory, an operation theatre and a leisure and reading auditorium as well as a clinic for daily checkups. The ministry has two child tumor specialists, who are expected to deal with 15 to 20 cases a year. More staff have been recruited for the unit, which is furnished and equipped with the best technology possible in the field.

### **Blood Donors are honored**

Participants in Aluminium Bahrain's (Alba) 12-hour blood drive were honored by the company's medical department in a ceremony organized in co-operation with the Health Ministry. The 288 units of blood collected in Alba's most recent drive were donated to support the Central Blood Bank and patients in need.

### **Blood Donation Campaign held**

A blood donation campaign was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 2006 at the Dair Health Centre, in Muharraq. The campaign was held under the patronage of Health Ministry Under-Secretary. It was organized by the Blood Bank in co-operation with Dair Charity Fund.

### **Ear Screening for Youngsters**

A hearing impairment screening program for children in Bahrain was launched at a scientific workshop on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 2006. The workshop at the Bahrain Medical Society, Juffair, was organized by the Bahrain Otorhinolaryngological, Head and Neck Association in collaboration with ear, nose and throat (ENT) and pediatric departments at Salmaniya Medical Complex and Bahrain Family Physicians Association. It was conducted by a visiting expert from Singapore, Dr Lynne Lim. She is an assistant professor and consultant, Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery, National University Hospital, National University of Singapore, and director of the Centre for Hearing Intervention and Language Development. The workshop, discussed and demonstrated the use of the new machines, that would be used for the new screening program aimed to cut down the number of hearing impairment cases in Bahrain.