



■ Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday received Arab diplomats in Thailand who congratulated him on receiving an honorary PhD from the Prince of Songkhla University. He urged Arab countries to bolster ties with Asian countries. Present were Bahrain Ambassador to Thailand Adel Satter and the Bahraini delegation.

# Work visas drop amid job growth

**MANAMA:** New work visas issued in Bahrain fell dramatically in the second quarter of this year, despite an overall

by the end of this year's second quarter.

This represented a slowdown in annual growth in foreign recruitment to 16pc, compared to 18.8pc in the first quarter.

down on the first quarter of the year, with 6,798 fewer visas issued.

The economic sector with the highest number of new visas for regular workers