

# Princess Sabeeka inaugurates Hoorat A'ali farmers' market

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Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King and National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD) Consultative Council President, yesterday opened the permanent farmers' market in Hoorat A'ali.

She stressed the keenness of NIAD initiative, since its establishment, to muster all efforts with competent establishments to promote the agricultural sector and expand green spaces.

She stressed keenness on giving the priority to Bahraini farmers through support, training, and encouraging them to invest in the sector to market locally products.

In a statement on this occasion, she said that the success of the season farmers' market in the Northern Governorate was a catalyst to set up a permanent platform to encourage and market local agricultural products.

She described the new market as a key platform for farmers to exchange expertise and knowhow and enhance the quality of local products in order to compete with foreign products and meet part of Bahrain's food security.

She commended the efforts of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development (NIAD), the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and the Department of Agricultural and Marine resources, commending Tamkeen

and Bahrain Development Bank for financing the project.

HRH Princess Sabeeka urged solutions to ensure the sustainability of national agricultural products and the success of farming projects so as to meet local needs and promote exports.

She toured the Hoorat A'ali permanent farmers' market, which showcases local agricultural products, including vegetables, fruit, dates, seedlings and flowers, she also heard.

HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa was also briefed about the market as well as the facilities for storing and cooling agricultural products in modern ways.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa at the newly-opened market at Hoorat A'ali

## Airport all set to welcome F1 Gulf Air GP visitors



Officials during the coordination meeting to review preparations at the airport

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Bahrain International Airport (BIA) has completed preparations for welcoming the large influx of international visitors expected for this year's Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, its operator and manager, Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) announced.

The motor sport, Bahrain's most high profile of the year, will be held from April 6 to 8 at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC).

Attracting international superstars, the event pumps millions into the local economy every year and shines a global spotlight on the Kingdom.

BAC's announcement came following a coordination committee meeting held with its partners, where they discussed the preparations required to accommodate

the teams, visitors, and cargo arriving for the event.

The meeting was attended by senior representatives of BIC; Immigration and Passport Control, Customs Affairs, Airport Police from the Ministry of Interior; Gulf Air; Bahrain Airport Services (BAS); and Bahrain Limo.

BAC Chief Airport Operations Officer, Michael Hohenberger said: "The world is watching us during F1 and it is more important than ever that all logistical operations are completed smoothly and seamlessly. The goal is to maintain the same levels of cooperation we have had with our partners in past years, ever since the first Formula One Grand Prix was held in the Kingdom in 2004. Every year, we anticipate and serve an influx of visitors and cargo via regular, additional, and chartered flights scheduled

to land at the airport in conjunction with the race. This alignment between the private and public sector helps us to accommodate the considerable requirements of such a prestigious and high-profile event."

Fans from 115 nationalities can apply online for F1 visas, which was introduced by Nationality, Passports, and Residence Affairs (NPR) specifically for spectators wishing to attend the F1 in Bahrain.

NPRA has set up several fast-track lanes at the airport, solely dedicated to all passports and immigration procedures related to the F1, and travellers can obtain the visa either through the NPRA portal [visa.gov.bh](http://visa.gov.bh) or on arrival in Bahrain. Other nationalities can also apply through the regular VISA procedures through the same website.

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