

Airport passenger traffic soars to 6.9mln last year

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Almost seven million passengers passed through Bahrain International Airport (BIA) in 2022.

This was confirmed during a meeting held by Bahrain Airport Company's (BAC) Airport Facilitation Committee.

BIA welcomed 6.9 million passengers, a 127.5% jump from three million in 2021, and only 29% less than pre-pandemic figures of 9.6 million in 2019.

The committee, which convened for its sixth meeting, is tasked with reviewing the operational facilitation of passengers, crew, and baggage at BIA.

They discussed a range of topics, including BIA's performance figures for the year, which saw aircraft traffic movements surge from 51,000, in 2021 to 82,000, just 15% short of 2019, and cargo tonnage increase from 324,000



The BAC Airport Facilitation Committee officers and members

in 2021, to 379,000, a 30% spike compared to 2019.

The committee also discussed BIA's impressive achievements, including receiving a Skytrax 5-star rating for second consecutive year, and taking another important step towards becoming a completely carbon-neutral facility by reaching Level 4 of Airports Council International's (ACI) Airport Carbon Accredita-

tion program.

"We can all be proud of how well our airport performed last year as we came closer to reaching pre-pandemic figures. This data points to an even stronger recovery in 2023 and, with passenger traffic on the rise, we are fully prepared to meet the needs of BIA's guests," BAC Chief Executive Officer Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah said.

"Delivering an exceptional passenger experience is central to our vision and strategies, and the Airport Facilitation Committee plays a key role in achieving this objective. I extend my sincere thanks to everyone for their continued efforts and support to exceed our high standards. This commitment to excellence has been recognized with a range of awards, further demonstrating

BIA's ability to stand alongside the world's leading airports."

The meeting also included presentations on aviation security, fire prevention, and the upcoming Full Scale Emergency Exercise, which will put the Airport Emergency Plan to the test and access the capabilities, readiness, and effectiveness of BIA's emergency and rescue services in dealing with potential incidents.

76 students graduate from Tamkeen tech training programs

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The Labour Fund, Tamkeen, has announced the graduation of 76 students from the immersive training programs in partnership with General Assembly, a leading provider of tech training.

The programs covered software engineering and user experience design and helped a number of graduates secure job opportunities only a few weeks after completing the programs in a number of local and international companies such as BNET, Al Baraka Bank, and Parcel.

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On this occasion, Maha Mofeez, Chief Executive of Tamkeen, emphasised the far-reaching benefits of upskilling in technology for jobseekers, entrepreneurs looking to start tech businesses, those pursuing career progression and development, as well as supporting freelance and project-based work opportunities for individuals.

This is evident through the remarkable results of these programs, as over 40% of graduates benefited from the programs to secure job opportunities, get promoted within their organisations or develop their entrepreneurial ventures within 2 months of graduating. This percentage is expected to increase over the next six months.

HRH Princess Sabeeka Productive Families Award winners honoured

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A ceremony was held yesterday to distribute the 12th edition of the HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award for Productive Families 2023 at Sharifa Alawadhi Youth and Children Club.

HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and Supreme Council for Women (SCW) President, deputises Injaz Bahrain Chairperson HH Shaikha Hessa bint Khalifa Al Khalifa to attend the prize distribution ceremony.



HH Shaikha Hessa with the top three winners

HH Shaikha Hessa handed over the prizes to the top three winners: the family of Wafa Dawood Salman (Best Produc-

tive Family), Majida Mahdi Ahmed (Best Product), and Al Baraha Suq board (best project sponsor).

An accompanying exhibition is being held on the sidelines of the ceremony themed "Incense Industry in Bahrain", with the

participation of 41 productive families, to market their products.

The three-day exhibition, which will run until tomorrow, will be open from 9 am until 9 pm, at the Sharifa Alawadhi Youth and Children Club in East Riffa.

HH Shaikh Hessa commended the important role being played by the Ministry of Social Development in promoting the major award as an incentive for Bahraini productive families to support local economy and preserve Bahrain's heritage.

Engineering Majors Expo for high school students inaugurated

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The 9th edition of the Bahrain 9th Engineering Majors Expo for high school students opened yesterday.

Education Minister Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma inaugurated the exhibition, being organised by the Bahrain Society of Engineers, at its headquarters in Juffair.

The two-day exhibition, which concludes today, will open from 9 am until 12.30 pm



Dr Juma with school representatives, students and event organisers

and then from 4 pm until 7 pm. Dr Juma toured the pavil-

ions in the exhibition, which is expected to receive more than

5,000 students from secondary public and private schools as

well as parents to learn about engineering majors in six local universities.

These are the University of Bahrain, the University of Technology (Bahrain), the University of Applied Sciences, the Gulf University, Al Ahlia University, and the Royal University for Women, in addition to the Bahrain Society of Engineers, the Council for Regulating the Practice of Engineering Profes-

sions, and the Survey and Land

Registration Authority.

The exhibition highlights a range of engineering disciplines, including civil engineering, architecture, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, electronic engineering, chemical engineering, petroleum engineering, environmental engineering.

It also includes precision machinery and control systems, computer engineering and aeronautical engineering.

Two Al Noor International School students top Cambridge examinations

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Al Noor International School made history when two of its students topped the world in their Cambridge examinations.

Maryam Mahmoud Fouad Ahmed Mansour gained the highest marks in the IGCSE Arabic First Language and IGCSE Information and Communications Technology, while Alaa Ashraf Helmy Mohamed Abdelwahab earned the highest marks in the AS Level English.

Maryam and Alaa achieved this after competing with thou-

sands of other students in over 10,000 schools and learning centres in 160 countries around the world who attended the examinations.

When asked how they felt about their successes, both students wished to express their sincere gratitude to their families and all of the teachers that supported them on the way.

"I cannot thank, my family, my school and my teachers enough for their continuous encouragement and guidance," a delighted Maryam said, a sentiment matched by Alaa who added, "It



Alaa



Maryam

was hard work but my success is also a success for my school, my teachers and my family."

Alaa completed his studies at Al Noor International School with a remarkable examination record of 8 A* at IGCSE, 4 a's at AS Level and 3 A* at A Level and is currently studying Computer Sciences at German International University in Egypt.

Mariam received her certificate in person whereas Alaa is currently studying abroad. In his absence, Alaa's certificate was received by his father Mr. Ashraf Helmy Mohamed Abdelwahab.

The students' proud and supportive parents expressed their joy in their children's achievements along with their appreciation for the opportunities their children received while studying at the school.

Delight

The school founder and Chairman Mr. Ali Hassan was delighted to hear the news.

"This achievement is history in the making. Expectations at Al Noor are high, and in this we make no exceptions," Mr. Hassan said.