



## Bahrain greets UAE leadership on National Day

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, sent cables of congratulations to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the United Arab Emirates, on his country's National Day.

HRH Prince Salman sent a similar cable to the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and the Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

## Jewellery Arabia 2024 sets new record numbers

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The 32nd edition of Jewellery Arabia 2024, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, concluded with great success and remarkable growth in key indicators, reinforcing its position as one of the most important jewellery and watch exhibitions in the region.

This year's edition, which ran for five days at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, saw a 19.5% increase in visitors to 51,185 compared to last year.

The official Jewellery Arabia and Perfume Arabia app also saw an 83% increase in downloads, reflecting the strong engagement with the digital solutions accompanying the exhibition.

## Plastic pollution talks deal fails

AFP | Busan, South Korea

Deeply divided negotiators failed yesterday to reach a landmark global treaty to curb plastic pollution, missing a self-imposed deadline, and agreed to extend their talks.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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# HM King Hamad hailed on Bahraini Women's Day celebration

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received a cable of congratulations from Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, the Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), on Bahraini Women's Day, which coincides this year with the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's Accession.

HRH Princess Sabeeka praised the significant progress achieved by Bahraini women under His Majesty's patronage, highlighting their vital role in national development.

She emphasised that these achievements reflect Bahrain's advancement under His Majesty's vision, fostering a nation that values progress, and cultural heritage, where women serve as key pillars of the Kingdom's development and progress.



HM the King



HRH Princess Sabeeka

Her Royal Highness also commended the SCW's achievements, attributing them to the support of His Majesty and the Kingdom's developmental initiatives. She affirmed that Bahraini women have become essential partners in advancing the Kingdom's comprehensive development process led by His Majesty the King.

HRH Princess Sabeeka affirmed that the SCW will remain the trusted national institution dedicated to realising HM the King's vision for advancing the role of women and integrating their needs into all aspects of national work and development. She highlighted the council's responsibility to monitor the progress of Bahraini women, safeguard their rights, and launch initiatives and programmes aimed at increasing women's contributions across all sectors. These efforts, grounded in constitutional principles, ensure that women continue to work alongside men in all fields of national work. Her Royal Highness expressed

gratitude to His Majesty for his continued support and wished the Kingdom further progress and prosperity under his leadership.

HM King Hamad sent a cable of congratulations to HRH Princess Sabeeka on the Bahraini Women's Day. HM the King expressed appreciation to Her Royal Highness and the members of the SCW for their dedication to advancing the status of Bahraini women. His Majesty commended their commitment to empowering women, enabling them to actively contribute to the progress and prosperity of the Kingdom across all areas of development.

Cable

HM King Hamad sent a cable of congratulations to HRH Princess Sabeeka on the Bahraini Women's Day.

HM the King expressed appreciation to Her Royal Highness and the members of the SCW for their dedication to advancing the status of Bahraini women.

His Majesty commended their commitment to empowering women, enabling them to actively contribute to the progress and prosperity of the Kingdom across all areas of development.

# Gulf Resolve

GCC Strengthens Unity, Advocates Peace and Prosperity

Mahir Haneef

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On behalf of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, participated at the 45th GCC Summit, held in the state of Kuwait, yesterday.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister affirmed Bahrain's steadfast commitment to enhancing cooperation and coordination among GCC countries across various fields.

His Royal Highness emphasized the significance of deepening collaboration to serve mutual interests, achieve shared aspirations, and bolster the region's progress and prosperity.

Highlighting the importance of unity, HRH Prince Salman stressed the GCC's pivotal role in advocating for Arab and Islamic causes, advancing developmental initiatives, and consolidating regional security and peace.

HRH called for intensifying efforts to align with the visions of GCC leaders to unlock greater achievements.

Expressing appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the Kuwaiti leadership and people while participating in the summit, chaired by the Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, at the Bayan Palace, HRH Prince Salman commended Bahrain-Kuwait relations as a testament to Gulf unity.

HRH the Crown Prince also participated in the summit's closing session, which culminated in the signing of the Joint Communiqué.



This reaffirmed the leaders' shared vision to address regional challenges and enhance collective efforts.

### Kuwait Declaration

The summit concluded with the Kuwait Declaration, underscoring GCC leaders' unified stance on regional and international issues.

A central focus was on the Palestinian cause, with leaders reiterating their strong support for Palestinian sovereignty over all lands occupied since June 1967 and advocating for an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The declaration condemned ongoing Israeli military actions in Gaza, Lebanon, and the West Bank, alongside violations at holy sites in Jerusalem.

It called for an immediate end to violence, urging international intervention to protect civilians and revive peace negotiations.

Further, the GCC leaders highlighted the bloc's increasing role in addressing political and economic challenges and promoting sustainable development.

They emphasised the need for sustainable economic diversification, energy market stability, digital transformation, and climate action.

### Future Pathways

Recognising the digital economy's transformative potential, the leaders called for greater investments in advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, to position the GCC as a global innovation hub.

They stressed the importance of unified digital markets to enhance regional integration and global competitiveness.

In their closing remarks, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fostering peace, stability, and prosperity across the



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlights:

The importance of doubling efforts to deepen GCC collaboration in line with the visions of the leaders of the GCC member states, contributing to accomplishing further achievements.

Bahrain's commitment to bolstering GCC cooperation and coordination across various fields to serve mutual interests and achieve shared aspirations for continued progress and prosperity.

The importance of enhancing GCC cooperation to solidify the GCC's stance at the regional and international level.

Gulf.

The summit's outcomes highlighted the GCC's unified resolve to address pressing challenges and its shared vision for a sustainable and innovative future.

HRH the Crown Prince also attended a lunch banquet hosted by the Emir of Kuwait in honour of the GCC leaders, concluding a summit that reinforced regional unity and collective ambition.



HRH Prince Salman with Bahrain delegation and regional leaders before returning home

# Success joy

## Cityscape Bahrain 2024 concludes with record-breaking BD341 million real estate transactions

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His Excellency Essam bin Abdulla Khalaf, Chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), has announced the conclusion of the third edition of Cityscape Bahrain 2024, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The exhibition achieved unprecedented success, with real estate transactions exceeding BD341 million.

Khalaf highlighted that this achievement reflects the attention and support given to Bahrain's real estate sector by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the follow-up of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, further solidifying Bahrain's position as a global investment destination and a centre for sustainable growth in real estate.

### Leadership

Khalaf noted that this year's event extended the success of its previous editions, showcasing Bahrain's leadership in hosting investment-focused exhibitions and events.

It attracted significant participation from developers, investors, and property seekers,



**This achievement reflects the attention and support given to Bahrain's real estate sector by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the follow-up of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, further solidifying Bahrain's position as a global investment destination and a centre for sustainable growth in real estate."**

H.E. ESSAM BIN ABDULLA KHALAF, CHAIRMAN OF THE REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY (RERA)

enhancing Bahrain's status as a competitive regional and international economic hub.

The third edition of Cityscape Bahrain 2024 saw re-

cord-breaking figures, with over BD341 million real estate transactions concluded.

### Confidence

These numbers underscore the high level of confidence in Bahrain's real estate sector and its ability to attract premier investment opportunities.

The exhibition featured participation from over 40 prominent local, regional, and international real estate companies, presenting innovative projects that combine modernity and sustainability.

These projects catered to diverse investor interests, blending luxury with cutting-edge trends in sustainable and technological advancements within the real estate industry.

### Specialised conference

This year's event included a specialised conference discussing the latest trends in the sector and the second Bahrain Real Estate Innovation Competition, which encouraged young talents to showcase creative ideas and innovative concepts.

These initiatives reflect Bahrain's commitment to nurturing future leaders in the real estate industry and aligning with the aspirations of the next generation to shape a sustainable and prosperous future.

# Rangoon Srap: Jaleelio's Literary Gem Set to be Launched Today

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Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam will today host the launch of 'Rangoon Srap', a novel by noted author and advocate Abdul Jaleel Abdulla, known by his pen name 'Jaleelio'.

Scheduled at 7.30 pm, the event forms part of the BKS-DC International Book Fair and Cultural Fest, which is running from November 28th to December 8th.

The launch will see an array of speakers, including writer and journalist Unni Balakrishnan, BRAVE Combat Federation President Mohammed Shahid, writer Lijeesh Kumar, and poet and lyricist Rafeeq Thiruvalloor who is popularly known as 'Umbachi', sharing insights into the book and its themes.

The event will also feature contributions from cultural figures BKS President P.V. Radhakrishnan Pillai, reflecting the literary and cultural vibrancy of the community.

Organised by the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam in collaboration with DC Books, the cultural fest celebrates creativity and storytelling, offering a plat-



Abdul Jaleel Abdulla with his novel

form for authors, critics, and readers to engage.

### Love for literature

With its vibrant mix of events, the fair aims to foster a love for literature and a spirit of cultural exchange.

Jaleelio's 'Rangoon Srap',

with its evocative storytelling, is expected to draw significant attention, reinforcing Bahrain's role as a hub for literary dialogue and cultural celebration.

This year's book festival is set to conclude on December 8th, marking yet another milestone in the region's cultural calendar.

## Christmas Carols party



The British Embassy in Bahrain hosted its annual Christmas Carols party, bringing together members of the local and expatriate communities to celebrate the festive season. Held at the embassy grounds, the event featured a lively and heartwarming evening of traditional carol singing, festive decorations, and a cheerful holiday atmosphere. Guests enjoyed performances by local choirs and musical groups, creating a memorable celebration of the season's spirit. (Pictures by Ashen Tharaka)

## NBB sponsors Mara'ee 2024



The National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) recently participated as Gold Sponsor in the seventh edition of Mara'ee, the Bahrain Animal Production Show held under the esteemed patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa from 27th November to 1st December 2024 at the Bahrain International Endurance Village. The annual event highlighted the latest advancements in animal production, green farming, and environmental sustainability through family-friendly entertainment and educational activities. With over 200,000 attendees, it offered a unique opportunity for NBB to connect with the community and showcase its offerings. The Bank also contributed to workshops and seminars that provided farmers, students and professionals with valuable insights into the industry's modernisation.

## Colours of brotherhood



The Kingdom of Bahrain is adorned with the colours of the UAE flag in celebration of the country's 53rd National Day. In conjunction with the UAE's celebrations of the occasion, various landmarks and key facilities across Bahrain's governorates were illuminated with the colours of the UAE flag. This gesture reflects Bahrain's participation in the UAE's national festivities and celebrates the historic and close ties between the two brotherly countries and their peoples.



## Noise, toilet misuse at Sanad Park spark action



Capital Municipal Council officials visit the park

**Mohammed Darwish**  
TDT | Manama

Noise complaints, late-night visitors, and toilet misuse at Sanad Park in Block 743 have pushed the Capital Municipal Council to act, as residents call for earlier closing times and tighter regulations.



**Sanad Park features playgrounds for children, fitness amenities, and lush green spaces, earning its place as a beloved spot for locals.**

Concerns about the park staying open until 9:00 pm have been loudest, with locals arguing for a 7:00 pm closure to reduce disruption.

Its location nestled among houses, while convenient, has also made noise an issue for families nearby.

Complaints include misuse of public toilets, visitors refusing to leave on time, and litter left behind by unruly picnickers.

“The Capital Municipal Council has taken on these complaints and passed them to the Capital Secretariat,” said Engineer Huda Sultan, chair of the Services and Public Facilities Committee. “We’ve suggested shorter opening hours, adding security staff, and putting up cameras to ensure the rules are followed.”

### Favourite

Sanad Park, though small, boasts children’s play areas, fitness equipment, and green patches, making it a favourite

among residents.

However, its popularity has also brought headaches. Some visitors, locals claim, have ignored basic rules, leaving rubbish behind and treating it as a free-for-all space.

Eng. Sultan noted that the Capital Secretariat had considered these challenges when designing the park but agreed to re-examine the complaints.

### Suggestions

The council also plans to forward further suggestions from residents, such as stricter management of the facilities, to the appropriate authorities.

While the council seeks to address the concerns, it also aims to ensure the park remains a pleasant space for families without burdening those tasked with its upkeep.

As it stands, the situation reflects the ongoing balancing act between urban living and community recreation.

# Forgery fallout

Three charged in salary fraud and BD39,000 loan scheme involving falsified government documents

**H Naser**  
TDT | Manama

Three Asian individuals have been charged with forgery and fraud for faking government documents to get large personal loans.

The main suspect and two accomplices, who worked as security guards for a Bahraini government agency, allegedly inflated their salaries to secure loans of over BD39,000 each.

The prosecution claims the three defendants, along with an unknown accomplice, worked together to forge official documents like salary certificates and bank statements.

This unknown person created fake documents that looked like real government and bank records.

The defendants used these forged documents to obtain loans.

### Legitimate

The main suspect, a bank sales representative, is accused of knowingly submitting these fake documents to the bank and manipulating bank records to make the false data appear legitimate.

The security guards are also charged with conspiring with the bank representative to commit these crimes.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

The scheme was uncovered when a bank sales manager noticed inconsistencies in loan applications from several individuals claiming unusually high salaries.

After checking with the relevant government agency, the forgeries were confirmed.

### Process

The manager, supported by a colleague, explained the process, which included video verification of the security guards’ identities and the submission of seemingly valid documents.

Further investigations confirmed the forgeries, with bank security footage showing the accomplices withdrawing the loan amounts.

A bank risk officer noted discrepancies in the fake bank statements and pointed out that the reported salaries had

been inflated from BD255 to over BD2,000.

A government employee verified that the salary certificates were forged, highlighting unauthorised signatures and differences from the original documents.

### Normal procedures

A bank audit manager stated that the loans went through normal procedures, with the bank representative handling the applications.

The accomplices quickly spent the loan money.

Both accomplices admitted to their roles in the scheme, acknowledging that they used the bank representative to facilitate the fraud and withdrew the loan funds.

Human resources records from the government agency confirmed the false salary information.

## Bahrain pushes ahead with joining road traffic global

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Bahrain is taking steps to address the lack of recognition for its driving licences abroad, with the Shura Council giving its initial backing to join the 1949 Road Traffic Agreement.

A final decision on the matter, linked to Decree No. 43 of 2024, will be taken in the council’s next session.

The agreement, designed to create consistent road rules between countries and improve safety, is expected to simplify travel for Bahraini drivers.

Shura member Nancy Khodari said, “This agreement

will provide a framework for safer roads and help Bahrainis drive internationally with fewer barriers.”

Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa pointed to practical problems faced by Bahrainis in Japan, which does not recognise Bahraini licences.

### Unnecessary challenges

“This has caused unnecessary challenges for our citizens abroad. By joining the 1949 agreement, we can resolve this issue,” he said.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Ghanim Buainain explained Bahrain’s historical absence from the treaty.

## Mara’ee 2024 a big success



The activities of the 7th edition of the Bahrain International Agricultural and Animal Production Exhibition (Mara’ee 2024) concluded yesterday, drawing significant attendance from visitors both within Bahrain and abroad. His Excellency Engineer Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, emphasised that the esteemed royal patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the exhibition played a crucial role in its success and distinguished presentation. He lauded HM the King’s directives to further develop this exhibition, which supports efforts to enhance and increase food security in the Kingdom.

## Bahraini women ‘model of dedication’



His Excellency Nibras Talib, Chief Executive of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and Chairman of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, affirmed that Bahraini women have achieved significant accomplishments, earning them a distinguished status on both local and global levels. This progress is a result of the comprehensive developmental journey led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the continued support and guidance of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. Talib said that Bahraini Women’s Day serves as a national occasion to celebrate their significant contributions in advancing comprehensive development.

## HRH Princess Sabeeka's key contributions commended



HRH Princess Sabeeka



H.E. Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa

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H.E. Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Auditor General of the National Audit Office (NAO), extended his best wishes and congratulations to Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women, on Bahraini Women's Day, which falls on the first of December every year.

Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed praised the prominent role of HRH Princess Sabeeka in supporting Bahraini women, which contributed to their presence and overall excellence in all sectors and their active and effective participation in the development of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

He praised the national

achievements of Bahraini women which was a result of the vision and support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the initiatives by the government headed by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to empower Bahraini women and become a key partner in the comprehensive development and promising future of the nation.

Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed stressed the NAO's keenness to ensure women's equal rights and access to all career opportunities in auditing, which was part of its strategy to promote the principle of equal opportunities and gender balance, implement the national plan to incorporate women's needs, and provide an ideal work environment in which women can flourish as equal productive partners.

# A nation united

## Bahraini Women's Day: A national celebration of empowerment and progress

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Her Excellency Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi, Minister of Tourism, has emphasised that Bahraini Women's Day is a cherished national occasion to celebrate the role of women in nation-building and their significant contributions to the comprehensive development process.

She commended the unwavering support extended to Bahraini women by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, whose leadership has been instrumental in firmly establishing gender balance.

The minister noted that the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has implemented this royal vision by prioritising women's needs in its plans and programs.

### Initiatives

Key initiatives, such as mandating equal opportunity committees in public and private institutions, have strengthened Bahraini women's roles and enabled them to assume leadership positions in various sectors.



**The government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, has implemented this royal vision by prioritising women's needs in its plans and programs**

H.E. FATIMA BINT JAAFAR AL SAIRAFI, MINISTER OF TOURISM



**BTEA is committed to empowering Bahraini women, supporting their excellence across tourism sectors, and enabling them to actively design and implement initiatives for sustainable tourism**

SARAH AHMED BUHEJI, CEO OF BAHRAIN TOURISM AND EXHIBITIONS AUTHORITY (BTEA)

tional accomplishments in overcoming challenges and excelling both nationally and internationally, positioning Bahrain as a leading example of women's empowerment.

The minister expressed optimism for continued progress and success, reinforcing women's role as essential partners in the nation's growth and development.

### Achievements

Sarah Ahmed Buheji, CEO of BTEA, underscored that Bahraini Women's Day is a significant national occasion to highlight women's achievements across various sectors.

She noted that these accomplishments reflect the directives of HM the King and the government's efforts, led by HRH Prince Salman to strengthen women's role as active partners in nation-building.

Buheji commended the initiatives and projects of the SCW for advancing women's progress and promoting equal opportunities.

### Commitment

She emphasised BTEA's commitment to empowering Bahraini women, supporting their excellence across tourism sectors, and enabling them to actively design and implement initiatives for sustainable tourism.

Buheji highlighted BTEA's dedication to enhancing women's roles in tourism, aligning with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Al Sairafi commended the Supreme Council for Women (SCW), chaired by HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, for its success in implementing comprehensive national strategies that enhance women's roles across domains.

### Societal awareness

She noted that the SCW has raised societal awareness of women's contributions as key partners in development, adding that women make up

about 54% of the workforce in the Ministry of Tourism and the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

### Leadership

Al Sairafi highlighted the exemplary achievements of Bahraini women in economic, social, and political sectors, noting their rise to prominent leadership positions through dedication and the support of the wise leadership.

She emphasised their excep-

## Panel discussion on 'Women in Tech'



Participants at the event

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Standard Chartered Bank hosted a panel discussion on the occasion of the Bahraini Women's Day, bringing together participants from all five cohorts of the "Women in Tech" program, an initiative dedicated to empowering women entrepreneurs in Bahrain by supporting their business growth and adaptation to the evolving digital landscape.

The panel also featured prominent women entrepreneurs and industry leaders from diverse sectors.

The event, held at the bank's headquarters in Manama, provided a platform for insightful dialogue and knowledge exchange, underscoring the bank's commitment to fostering innovation and supporting women in entrepreneurship.

### Milestones

During the session, partic-

ipants shared key milestones from their entrepreneurial journeys, emphasizing their use of digital solutions and modern technology to develop innovative products and services that address evolving market needs.

They also showcased aspects of their projects, explored strategies for growth and expansion, and discussed approaches to boost their presence in local and regional markets.

The discussion addressed challenges faced by women entrepreneurs, including liquidity constraints, marketing hurdles, intense competition, and access to financing.

### Opportunities

Additionally, the participants explored opportunities presented by emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, and their potential to drive growth across diverse sectors.

The speakers warmly con-

gratulated Bahraini women on the occasion of Bahraini Women's Day, celebrated annually on December 1st, extending their best wishes for continued progress, leadership, and success.

They also highlighted the vital contributions of Bahraini women to the nation's development, underscoring their remarkable achievements across various fields.

### Startups

Ten women-led startups have been selected for the fifth cohort of the "Women in Tech" program, representing a wide range of industries.

These startups operate in sectors such as e-sports, B2B marketplaces, food technology, educational technology, human resources and employee well-being, event management platforms, restaurant management systems, health technology, and corporate rewards and loyalty programs.



### Invitation to the Constituent General Meeting (the "CGM") Of AlAbraaj Restaurants Group B.S.C. (the "Company")

The Founders of the Company are pleased to invite the Shareholders of the Company to attend the CGM due to be held at 11 AM (Bahrain time) on 23rd December, 2024. The CGM will be held virtually, conducted via Zoom. Please refer to the Notes below and Proxy Form for further details and information on participation and registration.




#### The Agenda of the Constituent General Assembly Meeting is as follows:



- Appointment of the Chairman for the meeting.
- Discharge of existing Board of Directors from their seats and liabilities.
- Declaration of Conversion of the Company to be a public shareholding company.
- Approving the determination of the size of the Board of Directors to consist of seven directors.
- Ratification/approval of the Corporate Governance Charter, Policies and Manuals, listed in Section 7.6 of the Prospectus.
- Ratification of the report on the conversion of the Company and expenses related thereto.
- Appointment/elections of Board of Directors for the coming three coming years.
- Appointment of Authorized Signatories for the Company as follows:
  - Hamad Rashed Helal, Bahraini national, holder of CPR number 830904069.
  - Abdulla Rashed Helal Isa, Bahraini national, holder of CPR number 851109039.
  - Ali Rashed Helal Isa, Bahraini national, holder of CPR number 880209275.
  - Faisal Rashed Helal Isa, Bahraini national, holder of CPR number 890404574.
- Appointment of BDO as external auditors for the fiscal year starting January 2025 and authorizing the Board of Directors to determine their fees.
- Appointing a representative to sign on behalf of the Company's shareholders the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company as a public shareholding Company before a Notary, as per the draft in Appendix B of the Prospectus.

#### Notes:

- Registration for the CGM: Registration for participation in the virtual CGM will take place on Sunday, 22nd December 2024. Attendees will be sent a registration link followed by access details to attend the CGM.
- Proxy Forms can be obtained from the website for the Share Registrar [www.bahrainbourse.com](http://www.bahrainbourse.com) or the Company's website [www.alabraajgroup.com](http://www.alabraajgroup.com) or from the office of Bahrain Clear Company - Bahrain Financial Harbor, 4th Floor, Phone: +973 17108833, Fax: +973 17228061, email: [registry@bahrainbourse.com.bh](mailto:registry@bahrainbourse.com.bh). Please e-mail the completed and signed Proxy Forms (digitally signed or scanned copy of the physically signed Proxy Form) to ([registry@bahrainbourse.com](mailto:registry@bahrainbourse.com)) at least 24 hours prior to the CGM.
- Proxyholders shall present an identity card with signature as proof of identity.
- Shareholders whose names are registered in the share register of the Company 24 hours before the meeting are entitled to participate in the CGM, or appoint a Proxy to attend the CGM and vote on behalf of such shareholder provided such Proxy is not a director or employee of the Company (unless the Proxy is a first degree relative of that shareholder).
- Resolutions to be adopted in the CGM will be subject to the approval of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Central Bank of Bahrain.

#### On behalf of the Founders:

 Al Hilal Investments WLL
  Altitude Securities WLL
  Elevate Securities WLL

 Finca Securities WLL
  Puro Securities WLL

# BHD 12,000 cashback for 6 lucky winners

Al Baraka Islamic Bank launches "Travel, Shop Abroad, or Online with Al Baraka Credit Cards" campaign

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Al Baraka Islamic Bank, a leading Islamic financial institution in the Kingdom of Bahrain, has unveiled its exclusive "Travel, Shop Abroad, or Online with Al Baraka Credit Cards" campaign. This rewarding initiative offers Six lucky winners the chance to receive 100% cashback on their pur-



chases, with a maximum reward of up to BHD 2,000.

The campaign is designed to recognize the loyalty of Al Baraka's credit card holders while elevating their banking experience. It caters to customers who travel internationally, shop abroad, or make online purchases

**Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank**

in foreign currencies. Running from December 1, 2024, to February 25, 2025, the campaign aligns with a peak period of travel and online shopping, encompassing national holidays or holiday season, year-end vacations, and school breaks.

To participate, credit card holders must spend a minimum of BHD 300 in qualifying foreign currency transactions during the

campaign period. Every BHD 50 spent earns an entry into the draw, increasing chances of winning. At the campaign's conclusion, Six lucky winners will be selected to receive cashback of up to BHD 2,000, credited directly to their accounts.

Mr. Mazin Dhaif, Chief Retail Officer at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, commented on the campaign: "This initiative reflects

our commitment to enhancing their experiences while traveling or shopping online. We hope it provides exceptional opportunities as a token of our appreciation for their loyalty."

He added, "We encourage our customers to maximize the benefits of their Al Baraka credit cards during this campaign period by leveraging the flexibility and rewards offered."

## Seef Properties announces MoU with female-entrepreneur empowerment platform, Ra'edat

Coincides with Bahraini Women's Day

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Coinciding with its celebration of Bahraini Women's Day, Seef Properties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ra'edat, a non-profit digital platform focused on the development of Arab women globally. Seef Properties Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Yusuf; Ra'edat Chairman Ubaidly Yousif Ubaidly; and other representatives from both parties attended the ceremony, which was held at Seef headquarters.

Under the agreement, Seef Properties will promote female-owned businesses across its various destinations and through the online platform Souq Ra'edat, with the goal of enhancing their engagement with the community and expanding commercial opportunities for them in the Kingdom. Women who download the app will also have the opportunity to avail of discounts in participating shops at Seef Mall.

Seef Properties Chief Execu-



The deal signing

utive Officer, Ahmed Yusuf said: "Seef Mall has a rich history of empowering local entrepreneurs. Since its launch, many businesses owned by women have benefited from the destination's ideal location and footfall, which have helped those brands expand their presence

in the market. We look forward to providing the same support to Ra'edat's female entrepreneurs and empowering them to thrive in the market."

Ra'edat Chairman, Ubaidly Yousif Ubaidly said: "This partnership with Seef Properties is a significant step forward in

adding tangible value to female entrepreneurs by offering them access to high-visibility platforms that increase their reach. We are happy to collaborate with an organization that shares our dedication to advancing the role of women in the business landscape."

## Five days left for application deadline for AlAbraaj Restaurants Group IPO



The offering period closes on December 8, 2024

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Initial Public Offering of Alabraaj Restaurants Group, offered at BHD 0.236 per share for a total of 35% of the company's issued share capital, will culminate this week on December 8th.

With five days left until the application deadline, potential investors can continue to subscribe through the SICO's eipo portal link available at [www.alabraajipo.com](http://www.alabraajipo.com) or in person through any branch of Khaleeji Bank.

The prospectus is currently available electronically at [www.alabraajipo.com](http://www.alabraajipo.com). Print copies of the prospectus and the application form are also available at all branches of Khaleeji Bank and the Bahrain Bourse.

Alabraaj Restaurants Group has become synonymous with delivering high-quality dining experiences that celebrate both local flavors and international cuisines, with brands like Al Abraaj, Bindaira, Nu-

Asia, YaSalam, Lumee, Otto, LaRo, Sangam, San Carlo Cicchetti, Mazmiz, La Rotisserie and several cloud kitchen concepts. Alabraaj also franchises five restaurants, three of which are located in key cities in Saudi Arabia—Khubar, Jeddah, and Riyadh.

The IPO is structured with 70% of the shares on offer allocated to professional investors (i.e., those applying for over 1.5 million shares) while 30% of the shares have been allocated to retail investors (i.e., those applying for less than 1.5 million shares).

SICO is the mandated lead manager, underwriter, listing agent, price stabilizer, and liquidity provider and Khaleeji Bank has been appointed as the receiving bank with all of its branches across Bahrain participating in the IPO. Bahrain Bourse is the Listing Exchange and Trowers & Hamlins and Hassan Radhi & Associates are the legal advisors. KPMG is the financial due diligence advisor and BDO are the Auditors to Alabraaj Restaurants Group and Bahrain Clear are the allotment agent for the IPO and share registrar for the company.

## Tamkeen launches new programme to empower Bahraini women leaders with HEC Paris

● This comes in alignment with the Kingdom's celebrations for Bahraini Women's Day

● The programme offers a unique training opportunity for Bahraini women in managerial positions to enhance their career development

TDI | Manama

The Labour Fund (Tamkeen) announced the launch of the "Accelerating Women's Leadership Program" in partnership with HEC Paris to empower Bahraini women with leadership skills. The launch of this programme coincides with Bahrain's celebration of Bahraini Women's Day, by the Supreme Council for Women under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. This year's Bah-

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PARIS

raini Women's Day celebration is held under the theme "Women, worthy partner in nation building", the same theme was carried by the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women. This strategy was adopted during the prosperous era of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, marked by achievements spanning over 25 years.

Bahrain took long strides in the advancement of Bahraini women as a result of nationwide efforts aimed at women empowerment under the leadership of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and follow up of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Consort of His Majesty the

King and President of Supreme Council for Women.

This programme is part of the Executive Leadership Training Initiative launched by His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Education Charitable Trust and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Labour Fund (Tamkeen). Set to launch in February 2025, the program will offer comprehensive training with the purpose of empowering Bahraini women with the skills required to take leadership positions Bahrain's private sector. The program is aimed at Bahraini women aspiring to become trailblazers in their fields, reflecting Tamkeen's commitment to creating an inclusive and progressive labor market that empowers women for pivotal and leadership roles in Bahrain's workforce.

This programme is offered in partnership with the world-leading business school HEC Paris. The program features a cutting-edge curriculum grounded in advanced research and best practices in leadership

development. Participants will engage in sessions focused on navigating complex leadership landscapes, mastering influence and persuasion, enhancing problem-solving abilities, and embracing purpose-driven leadership.

This programme aligns with Tamkeen's priorities as one of the key entities dedicated to advancing the role of Bahraini women and increasing their economic participation, in line with one of the main objectives Tamkeen was established to fulfill. Over the past years, Tamkeen has launched numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing the participation of Bahraini women in the national economy, whether through entrepreneurship or by supporting their entry into the labor market and career development.

Bahraini women who fulfill the programme eligibility criteria of working in a Mid-Level Executive position in the private sector, having 5 to 7 years of managerial experience and holding a bachelor's degree in any field can apply through the link available on Tamkeen's channels by 14 December 2024.



News in brief

President-elect Donald Trump yesterday threatened to impose a 100 percent tariff on the BRICS group nations if they undercut the US dollar.



Trump threatens 100% tariff on BRICS countries over currency plans

Yemen's Huthis say they targeted Israel with missile

Yemen's Huthi rebels said they fired a missile at central Israel on Sunday, as Israeli forces announced they had intercepted a "projectile".

Unsustainable farming, forest loss driving Earth to 'precipice': UN



Unsustainable farming and deforestation are threatening the planet's capacity to sustain human societies, the UN warned yesterday.

Syrian government loses Aleppo after lightning rebel offensive: monitor



Anti-government fighters ride military vehicles as they drive along a road in the eastern part of Aleppo province

Government forces lost control of Syria's second city Aleppo yesterday for the first time since the country's civil conflict began.

World Central Kitchen says three contractors killed, suspends Gaza operations

US charity World Central Kitchen said Saturday it was "pausing operations in Gaza" after an Israeli air strike killed three of its contractors.

UNRWA pauses aid delivery via key Gaza-Israel crossing

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees has halted the delivery of aid through the key Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel and Gaza.

Three killed as Cyclone Fengal pummels India's south

People move through a flooded street after heavy rainfall in Puducherry

100 arrested for growing poppy in Afghanistan: police

Representative picture AFP | Faizabad, Afghanistan

More than 100 people have been arrested for growing poppy in northeastern Afghanistan.

Divided plastic pollution negotiators call for more time

Negotiators have failed to reach agreement on a landmark treaty to curb plastic pollution and need more time to continue discussions.

Environmental activists demonstrate in front of the Bexco convention center in Busan

Environmental activists demonstrate in front of the Bexco convention center in Busan

Trump announces loyalist Kash Patel as choice to lead FBI

Washington, United States



Kash Patel

President-elect Donald Trump aims to make loyalist Kash Patel the next director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Trump announced the former advisor and Pentagon official, who has been critical of the bureau and is known for his controversial views on a so-called government "deep state."

Three killed as Cyclone Fengal pummels India's south



People move through a flooded street after heavy rainfall in Puducherry

While the storm is expected to gradually weaken into a depression later Sunday, India's weather bureau warned of heavy rains across parts of India's south.

Low-level cyclone that smashed into India's southern coastline killed at least three people but otherwise did not cause widespread damage, officials said.

Three people were electrocuted as a result of the storm in Chennai, Tamil Nadu state disaster management minister KKSRR Ramachandran told reporters late Saturday.

LEGAL VIEWPOINT: TOP 4 TWEETS. 01: We will overcome AIDS if the rights of everyone, everywhere, are protected. 02: Warm wishes to the Border Security Force on their Raising Day! 03: People in Germany really need to use to know what's really happening. 04: In 1963, President Kennedy welcomed the Celtics as the first NBA champions to visit the White House.

LEGAL VIEWPOINT

Equity Shares & Preference Shares

AWARSAMA@WARSAMALLC.COM

DR. ABDELGADIR WARSAMA



Shares represent ownership in the company, as each shareholder, is deemed owner. This type of shares, as referred to in the Company law, are equity shares or "ordinary shares".

Equity shareholders have some privileges, such as getting voting rights at the general meetings, appointing or removing directors and auditors, getting profits and the more the profit, the more are dividends.

Equity shareholders have some privileges, such as getting voting rights at the general meetings, appointing or removing directors and auditors, getting profits and the more the profit, the more are dividends. This does not mean that they will get the whole profit of the year, but the residual profit, which remains after paying all expenses and liabilities.

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)









# Liverpool pile on misery for Man City

Liverpool extend lead with 2-0 win; Amorim earns first Premier League victory with United

● Liverpool moves nine points clear of Arsenal

● Manchester United beat Everton 4-0 for Ruben Amorim's first league win

● Chelsea continue their strong form with a 3-0 win over Villa

AFP | London

Liverpool piled on the misery for Manchester City as the Premier League leaders beat the troubled champions 2-0 at Anfield, while Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim earned his first league win with a 4-0 rout of Everton yesterday.

Arne Slot's side moved nine points clear of second-placed Arsenal after Cody Gakpo's first-half opener and Mohamed Salah's late penalty dealt another blow to reeling City, who are languishing 11 points behind Liverpool in fifth place.

City have lost four successive top-flight games for the first time since 2008, making them the first Premier League champions to endure such a dismal run the season after claiming the title.

City have clawed back significant deficits to win the Premier League in the Guardiola era, but they have never managed to lift the title after being behind by more than 10 points.



Liverpool's Egyptian striker #11 Mohamed Salah shoots the ball

City's seven-game winless run ranks as boss Pep Guardiola's longest barren streak in his glittering managerial career.

Just weeks after he signed a new two-year contract, Liverpool fans taunted Guardiola with chants of "you're getting sacked in the morning", prompting a defiant response from the Spaniard, who held up six fingers to illustrate the number of titles he has won with City.

"The first 20 minutes Liverpool were unstoppable. We tried to play with a lot of control and passes, but it was difficult to take it," Guardiola said.

"We'll reset and start from

zero. It is difficult to believe it. I rely a lot on these players. We'll see what happens by the end of the season."

Liverpool have won 18 of their 20 games in all competitions since Slot replaced Jurgen Klopp in the close-season.

With 11 victories from their 13 Premier League matches, Liverpool are firm favourites to win the title for the first time since 2020.

"We came close to perfection. That's the only way to beat a quality team like City," Slot said.

"We have to stay sharp. I don't think anyone, including me, would have predicted this -- to

win so much with all the difficult teams we have played already."

City's defence was in disarray right from the start and when Salah curled a 12th minute shot towards the far post, Gakpo pounced to poke home from virtually on the line.

Salah's 78th-minute penalty, awarded for keeper Stefan Ortega's foul on Luis Diaz, was a dagger in the heart of City's title hopes.

Amorim stole the spotlight in yesterday's early games by extending his unbeaten start with United to three matches.

United were held to a 1-1 draw at Ipswich in his first Premier

”

The result was good but we were pragmatic. It was not pretty. It is a rollercoaster. We have some moments when we are good but then we have moments when we have to suffer

MANCHESTER UNITED BOSS RUBEN AMORIM

League game last Sunday, before the Portuguese boss earned his maiden win with United in a 3-2 success against Bodo/Glimt in the Europa League on Thursday.

**Man Utd power surge**

The 39-year-old, who arrived from Sporting Lisbon to replace the sacked Erik ten Hag in November, has warned United would "suffer for a long period" before they can expect to challenge for the title.

This was the most encouraging result of Amorim's brief time at ninth-placed United.

Marcus Rashford's 34th-minute drive from the edge of the area took a deflection off Jarrad Branthwaite before flashing into the net.

United struck again seven minutes later as Branthwaite lost possession to Amad Diallo and Bruno Fernandes teed up Joshua Zirkzee to convert with ease.

Rashford underlined United's superiority just 20 seconds after the interval as he applied a cool finish to Diallo's incisive pass,



Liverpool has won 18 of their 20 games in all competitions since Arne Slot replaced Jurgen Klopp in the close season

before Zirkzee struck again in the 64th minute with a composed strike.

"The result was good but we were pragmatic. It was not pretty," Amorim said. "It is a rollercoaster. We have some moments when we are good but then we have moments when we have to suffer."

At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea extended their unbeaten run in all competitions to six games with a 3-0 win against Aston Villa, whose dismal winless streak reached eight matches.

Enzo Maresca's men look capable of securing Champions League qualification after a third successive win in the space of eight days moved them level on points with second-placed Arsenal.

Nicolas Jackson and Enzo Fernandez scored in the first half before Cole Palmer struck in the closing stages.

Seventh-placed Tottenham's top-four hopes were dented by a 1-1 draw against 10-man Fulham.

## India's Jay Shah starts term as ICC boss

AFP | New Delhi

Indian cricket boss Jay Shah began yesterday his tenure as chairman of the International Cricket Council, saying he looked forward to taking the sport to "new heights".

The son of India's powerful home minister Amit Shah was elected unopposed by the sport's world body in August and succeeds Greg Barclay, who decided not to seek a third



Jay Shah

term.

At 36, he is the youngest person ever to hold the position.

## Bahrain hosts Gulf Military Shooting Championship draw

TDI | Manama

The Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) conducted the draw for the first GCC Military Shooting Championship, organized and overseen by the BDF Military Sports Federation.

The championship aims to foster participation among military athletes across the Gulf, reflecting the importance of sports as an integral component of military training. The event is expected to enhance participants' skills and promote camaraderie among armed forces in the region.

Anticipation is high for this groundbreaking event, which marks the debut of a regional military shooting competition featuring top marksmen from



GCC armed forces. Organizers have ensured comprehensive preparations, setting the stage for a successful and competitive tournament.

The championship underscores the commitment of GCC military sports institutions to advancing athletic excellence in tandem with operational readiness.

## BTF celebrates Women's Day with tennis tournament

Hussain Almaskati  
TDI | Manama

The Women's Committee of the Bahrain Tennis Federation hosted a special event to mark Bahraini Women's Day, an occasion celebrated under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, Wife of His Majesty the King and President of the Supreme Council for Women. The event featured competitive women's doubles matches with 26 participants of various ages and abilities competing under the theme "Women: A Worthy Partner in Nation



Players and organizers pose for a photo after the event

Building."

Jameela Al-Nashaba, Chair of the Women's Committee, extended congratulations to Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka, emphasizing the pivotal role of Bahraini women in all sectors. Al-Nashaba praised the support of His Majesty King

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for fostering an environment where women can thrive.

The tournament culminated in an exciting final, with Alia

Abdullah and Faten Abdulhamid defeating Iman Abdulhamid and Marzia Tessaro to claim the title. The winners were awarded medals and prizes in a ceremony attended by Bahrain Tennis Federation Board Member Mohammed Salman and Jameela Al-Nashaba.

## Debutant Bethell leads England to eight-wicket win over New Zealand

AFP | Christchurch

England blazed to an eight-wicket victory in the first Test against New Zealand yesterday, knocking off their 104-run target in just 12.4 overs of their second innings..

After bowling out New Zealand for 254 on day four in Christchurch, debutant Jacob Bethell scored the winning run to reach a maiden Test 50 off 37 deliveries with eight fours and a six. Joe Root was not out 23 off 15 balls at the other end.

"Very happy with the way we performed throughout the week," said England captain Ben Stokes after his side took a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.



England's Jacob Bethell (L) and Joe Root leave the ground after beating New Zealand

"Our bowlers were relentless throughout."

New Zealand resumed on 155-6 in their second innings, a lead of four runs, and frustrated England for more than two hours to reach 254, a lead of 103.

Daryl Mitchell, 31 overnight, scored a defiant 84 and put on a stubborn 13-over partnership for the last wicket worth 45 runs with Will O'Rourke (five not out). England's Brydon Carse took six second-innings wickets to finish with 10 in a Test for the first time.

The 104-run target was never going to be enough to stop England, who sealed the Test midway through the afternoon session.

## Bahrain to host inaugural Asian Junior Padel Championship

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is set to make history as it hosts the first-ever Asian Junior Padel Championship from December 15 to 21, 2024. The championship, held under the esteemed patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority, and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee, marks a significant milestone for the kingdom's sporting landscape.

Speaking ahead of the championship, His Highness Shaikh Khalid expressed his pride in Bahrain's hosting of the event, emphasizing the importance of this inaugural edition. "This is a remarkable occasion for the Kingdom as we welcome the Asian Junior Padel Championship to our shores for the first time, under the supervision of the Asian Padel Federation," he stated.

### Elevating Bahrain

The championship is seen as a key opportunity to enhance Bahrain's international sporting profile, particularly in padel,



HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa

a sport that has witnessed explosive growth in popularity

in recent years. His Highness highlighted how Bahrain's role as a host underscores its dedication to fostering world-class sporting events.

### Nurturing Next Gen Talent

Beyond its significance as a continental event, the championship will serve as a platform to develop young athletes, honing their skills and preparing them for global competitions. His Highness Shaikh Khalid noted that events of this caliber play a crucial role in nurturing future stars, contributing to their growth and elevating the sport's standards in the region.

## Ministry of Interior secures top spot in showjumping championship



Ministry of Interior's showjumping team celebrates their win

Hussain Almaskati  
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Interior's showjumping team secured first place in the grand competition of the Royal Equestrian Federation Showjumping Championship. Held at the Military Sports Federation Arena in Al-Riffa, the event was organized under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation.

Major General Abdulaziz Mayouf Al-Rumaihi, team supervisor, extended his congratulations to General Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Minister of Interior. He

credited the team's success to the consistent support of Lieutenant-General Tariq bin Hassan Al-Hassan, Chief of Public Security, whose guidance has propelled Bahraini sports teams to regional and international achievements.

### Acknowledgements for Event Success

Al-Rumaihi praised His Highness Sheikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa for his leadership and Sheikh Abdullah bin Mohammed Al Khalifa for their meticulous planning, which contributed to the championship's success. He also expressed appreciation for the Military Sports Federation's efforts in ensuring a seamless and well-organized event.

## BIC marks Bahraini Women's Day with special celebration

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", hosted today a special gathering for its female staff in celebration of Bahraini Women's Day.

The event featured a sumptuous meal, and it took place at BIC's lounges along the Oasis Complex.

In attendance were BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, BIC Chief Operating Officer Fayez Ramzy Fayez, BIC Chief Commercial Officer Sherif Al Mahdy, as well as the circuit's team of talented women.

Shaikh Salman commented to mark the occasion: "Our female



BIC officials with female staff during the event

staff members at BIC play an integral role in our success as a world-class venue for motorsport, and I am tremendously proud of the daily contributions they make at the very heart of BIC's operations.

"As we celebrate Bahraini Women's Day, it is only fitting

that we honour them not only for what they do for the circuit, but also for being trailblazers in the industry as we continue our commitment to promote equality and diversity in motorsport.

"I thank all of our female team members for their tireless

efforts, and I wish them all a very happy and blessed Bahraini Women's Day."

The celebration of Bahraini Women's Day is just one of the many activities held throughout the year to appreciate the hard work and dedication of the BIC family.

# Verstappen triumphs in chaotic Qatar

Max Verstappen dominates crash-hit Qatar GP for ninth win, McLaren's title hopes delayed after Norris penalty

● Verstappen wins despite overnight pole position demotion

● Numerous stewards' decisions and penalties shape race outcome

● Charles Leclerc secures second place for Ferrari

● Oscar Piastri takes third for McLaren

AFP | Doha

Max Verstappen avenged his overnight demotion from pole position by clinching his ninth win of the season and 63rd of his career with a dominant triumph for Red Bull in yesterday's crash-hit and controversial Qatar Grand Prix.

In a race shaped by a litany of stewards' decisions and penalties, including a harsh late 10-second 'stop-go' for Lando Norris of McLaren, the newly-crowned four-time world champion was flawless as he came home six seconds ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

That result meant McLaren, even with Oscar Piastri finishing



Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen celebrates with his team at parc ferme

third, were unable to clinch a first constructors title since 1998 and have to try again in the final race in Abu Dhabi next weekend.

George Russell finished fourth for Mercedes, despite being handed a late time penalty, ahead of Alpine's Pierre Gasly and Carlos Sainz in the second Ferrari, two-time champion Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin

and Zhou Guanyu of Sauber, who scored his and the team's first points of the season.

Kevin Magnussen was ninth for Haas and Norris, after a ferocious finale following his penalty, was 10th for McLaren.

Verstappen's success was not enough to keep alive Red Bull's challenge for the teams' title which left McLaren top with

640, 21 points clear of Ferrari with one race to go.

"I am very happy with that," said Verstappen, who has recovered his form in the last three races. "It's been a long time since we had victory in the dry and it's great for the team to be so competitive again."

Leclerc said he was happy with second and forecast a

It's been a long time since we had victory in the dry and it's great for the team to be so competitive again

MAX VERSTAPPEN

"very tight" finish in the championship next weekend. "But 21 points is still a big margin," he added.

The Dutchman's overnight loss of pole, for driving too slowly and causing Russell to take evasive action, had gifted the Mercedes' driver his career fifth pole and second in succession.

Fired up by that stewards' decision, Verstappen made an excellent start to power by Russell and lead into Turn One with Norris squeezing through to take second before the opening lap was red-flagged for a Safety Car.

A crash involving Nico Hulkenberg, who lost the rear of his Haas and spun into Ocon's Alpine, the pair taking the innocent Franco Colapinto with them in his Williams, caused the pause. It was the luckless Williams team's 16th crash of the season.

Racing resumed on lap five with the top three unchanged ahead of Leclerc and Piastri, who swiftly jumped back to fourth, a

BETTER YOU KNOW

Williams suffered their 16th crash of the season, capping a challenging year with the highest number of collisions among all teams

move that kept both McLarens ahead of the two Ferraris.

For McLaren, it was going to plan, a description not claimed by Hamilton. After a false start, he was eighth with a five-second penalty.

His Mercedes team-mate Russell also suffered misfortunes, pitting after 24 laps in a slow seven seconds - due to a recalcitrant right rear wheel - and dropping from third to rejoin 12th on hards.

Russell's problems lifted Piastri to third, 8.7 behind Norris, the two McLarens sitting ahead of Leclerc and Sainz, in fourth and fifth, with Verstappen on top before an errant mirror, from Magnussen's Haas car, fell on the main straight, bringing double waved yellows.