

## Stage is set for Bahrain tropical almond festival

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Bahrain's second loz (tropical almond) festival will take place from tomorrow to July 7 at Budaiya Botanical Garden's Farmers Market, organised by the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

The festival aims to promote locally-produced fruits and provide a platform for Bahraini farmers and producers to showcase their loz-based products, as well as attract citizens, residents, and visitors from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Thirteen local farmers will participate in the festival, alongside four productive farming families, and five plant nurseries.

It will include a display of loz seedlings and fruit varieties, a showcase of loz-related manufacturing industries, and activities for children.

## Over 2kgs of drugs seized

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The Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the General Directorate of Criminal Investigations and Forensic Evidence has arrested several individuals of different nationalities in separate incidents, seizing over 2 kilograms of narcotics valued at over BD24,000.

The Directorate revealed that following intelligence reports, thorough investigations led to the identification and arrest of the suspects.

Upon apprehension, they were found in possession of the seized drugs and various currencies believed to be proceeds from illicit sales.

The seized items have been documented and secured, with legal proceedings initiated for referral to the Public Prosecution.

220 fils (includes VAT)



# Bahrain greets US on Independence 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 the US President Joe Biden, on his country's Independence Day.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister sent a similar cable to Vice President Kamala Harris.

A telephone call was also held yesterday between HRH Prince



HM the King



HRH Prince Salman



US President Joe Biden

Salman, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and the US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin III.

They discussed the longstanding relationship and collaboration between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the US.

His Royal Highness highlighted the importance of bolstering joint cooperation and coordination, as per the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (CSIPA), to benefit both countries.

# GCC Rail Link Gathers Steam

Land acquired for Bahrain link to King Hamad Causeway

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The ambitious plan to connect the Gulf with a high-speed railway network took a major step forward this week with Bahrain announcing the acquisition of land in Janabiya, a key area for the project's link to the King Hamad Causeway.

This follows the launch of a tender by the GCC Secretariat General, seeking specialists to develop an operational plan for the entire railway network.

The 137 land acquisition decisions, the largest this year for Bahrain, pave the way for detailed development plans in Ramli, Nuwaidrat, and Muharraq. This comprehensive approach signifies the project's momentum and its potential to transform the region's economic landscape.

The GCC railway, with a planned length of 2,177 kilometres, will connect all six Gulf states. Companies with expertise in railway operations, logistics, and data analysis are invited to



An artist's impression of the railway network project

**The GCC railway project aims to enhance connectivity across Bahrain and neighboring Gulf states, fostering regional economic integration and transportation efficiency.**

submit proposals in Riyadh. The project holds immense promise for boosting regional trade, travel, and joint investments.

Citizens and residents across the Gulf are excited about the project's potential to usher in a new era of cooperation and

connectivity. With an estimated passenger capacity of 8 million annually by 2050, the railway is poised to revolutionize travel within the region.

### Four-lane road

The project also includes a new four-lane road alongside the King Hamad Causeway, easing traffic congestion and facilitating smoother movement

of goods. The dedicated freight yard, capable of handling a significant volume of containers and bulk cargo, is expected to make Bahrain a major logistics hub.

The GCC railway project is a significant undertaking, and the recent developments signal a collective commitment towards a more integrated and prosperous future for the Gulf region.

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