

Middle East and Africa Photographers shine at HUAWEI NEXT IMAGE Awards



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The HUAWEI NEXT IMAGE Awards 2022, an annual smartphone photography competition, concluded on December 30th with 54 winning works, including three Grand Prize Winners, 24 Best-in-Category Winners, and 27 Runner-up Winners. The competition, which began on August 1st, 2022, awarded seven winners from the Middle East and Africa region.

Among the prize-winning works were submissions from amateur photographers such as students, doctors, and engineers. Four photographers from the MEA region won the Best-in-Category award, and two were runner-up winners. The Storyboard category winner is Mark Anthony Agtay from the UAE, whose series of nine photographs captures the diverse ways people use their hands in everyday life.

In the Portrait category, the runner-up winner is a photograph by Junaid Jafar from the UAE, and the runner-up winner in the Sport category is Christopher C. Comes, also from the UAE. A best-in-category

winner in Sport is an anonymous entry from Saudi Arabia.

A runner-up winner in the Hello Life category was a photo taken in the Al Mubarakia market in Kuwait City.

The Dyehouse by Hosam Hassan Al Sayed Ahmed Sewalam from Egypt was chosen as the best Storytelling Short Film. Kalenga Nkonge from Zambia won the best Portrait award.

The competition featured nine categories: Art & Fashion, Outdoor, Portrait, Sport, Hello Life, Storyboard, Action, Storytelling Short Film, and Storytelling Long Film, with Best-in-Category and Runner-up Winners selected for each. Three works, "FORCE" by Adão Filipe Fernandes Salgado, "Just Shaen" by Enrica Brescia, and "Fireworks" by Wang Zihao, received universal recognition from the international judging panel and were awarded Grand Prize Wins of \$10,000 USD each. Each of the 24 Best-in-Category Winners will receive a \$1,500 USD NEXT IMAGE Creative Fund prize, and each of the 27 Runner-up Winners will receive a HUAWEI P50 Pro.

ila Bank announces Al Kanz 2023 prizes totaling US\$ 2 million!

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ila Bank, a fast-growing digital, mobile-only bank powered by Bank ABC, has announced cash prizes through its prize-linked saving account, Al Kanz, in 2023.

Last year, customers won a total of US\$ 1.5 million as monthly and bumper bi-annual cash rewards. Al Kanz will give away US\$ 2 million in prizes in this year's edition.

ila customers stand to win: US\$ 250,000 in March and September; US\$ 500,000 million in June and a US\$1 million in December.

Nada Tarada, Head of Business & Customer at ila Bank, commented, "We look forward to seeing our grand prize winners fulfil their dreams this year, and we will continue to co-innovate with our customer community to deliver tailored



Nada Tarada

products that reflect their financial aspirations."

For every BHD 50 saved in Al Kanz, customers stand a chance to win a grand cash prize this year.

Out of the Box announces 'Rangeela festival of colours' in March

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Out of the Box, an event management company said it is holding a Holi festival on the 10th of March at Coral Bay Resort from 12 pm to 10 pm.

The event is now in its fifth edition. Renowned DJ Sonia from Mumbai and Bahrain's popular DJ Nirmal will entertain the audience at the show, which will also have Dhol, Bhangra, Desi Food Stall, a colour stand and lots more.

Al Baraka Islamic Bank launches Apple Pay

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Al Baraka Islamic Bank announced launching Apple Pay for its customers, which it said offers a "safer, more secure and private way to pay" by using the power of iPhone.

The bank said that Apple Pay is accepted in grocery stores, pharmacies, taxis, restaurants, coffee shops, retail stores, and many more places.

For contactless payment, cus-



tomers simply hold an iPhone or an Apple Watch near a payment terminal. Each purchase is au-

thenticated with Face ID, Touch ID, or device epasscode, as well as a one-time unique dynamic security code.

Payments can also be made using Apple Pay on iPhone, iPad, and Mac to make faster and more convenient purchases in apps or on the web in Safari without having to create accounts or repeatedly type in shipping and billing information.

Payments can also be

made in apps on Apple Watch.

To set up Apple pay, in iPhone, open the Wallet app, tap +, and follow the steps to Al Baraka's credit or debit cards. Once a customer adds a card to iPhone, Apple Watch, iPad, and Mac, they can start using Apple Pay on that device right away. Customers will continue to receive all of the rewards and benefits offered by Al Baraka Islamic Bank cards.



An International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation, led by Asmaa Al Janani, yesterday held talks with the Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber, Sameer Nass, at his office. The meeting focused on the prospects of the national economy and praised efforts to strengthen stability, sustainability, and growth. Non-oil sectors such as hospitality and tourism, banking and finance, and real estate were emphasized, as well as the growing importance of SMEs and entrepreneurs. The meeting was in the presence of Chamber's second Vice-Chairman, Mohammed Al Kooheji, bureau member Basim Al Saie, board members Sonia Janahi, Sawsan Abu Alhasan, Yaqoob Al Awadhi, and CEO Dr Abdulla Al Sada.

Alba planted 12,000 trees & treated 125 kg organic waste daily since 2021

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Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) announced planting more than 12,000 trees from 2021 in the Kingdom, boosting Bahrain's efforts to double tree coverage by 2035.

As part of marking Bahrain's National Environment Day, celebrated annually on 04 February, on Monday, Alba's CEO, Ali Al Baqali, joined the CEO of Nasser Vocational Training Centre, Dr Abdulla bin Naser Al Noaimi, to plant saplings along roads surrounding NVTC in the Jaw area.

Alba's CEO Ali Al Baqali said: "Planting trees is one of the ways we support Bahrain's National Afforestation Plan and nation-wide campaigns such as 'Forever Green' as well as meet United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 - Climate Action, which encourages everyone to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts."

Dr Al Noaimi added: "We commend Alba's leadership in taking the lead in socially responsible initiatives and increasing Bahrain's green cover, including afforestation of the



Officials planting a sapling area surrounding NVTC."

In addition, Alba recently commissioned a 'Food Waste

Composter' to treat around 125 Kg per day of food waste and produce nutrients-rich compost

within 24 hours to address SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production.

Most markets gain as interest rate fears ease

Reuters

Most stock markets closed higher yesterday, tracking oil and global equities after comments from the head of the US Federal Reserve boosted risk appetite, though the Qatar index fell amid energy price volatility. Saudi Arabia's benchmark index (TASI) gained 0.4%, snapping a seven-day losing streak,

with oil behemoth Saudi Aramco (2222.SE) climbing 1.3% while petrochemicals giant Saudi Basic Industries (2010.SE) rose by 1.9%.

Oil prices jumped more than 1% on supply concerns after an earthquake shut a major export terminal in Turkey and on prospects of demand growth in China. Brent crude futures rose 86 cents, or 1.03%, to \$84.55 a

barrel by 1053 GMT.

Dubai's benchmark index (.DFMGI) settled 0.4% higher, gaining for a sixth straight session, as momentum in heavy-weight stocks in the real estate sector helped to keep it in positive territory.

A 3% jump in real estate developer Aldar Properties (ALDARAD) bolstered Abu Dhabi's benchmark index (.FTFADGI),

which was up 0.1% at the close. Aldar is due to announce full-year earnings on Feb. 9.

Qatari index (.QSI) dipped 0.7%, as losses in banking and materials sector sapped early gains. Egypt's blue-chip index (EGX30) rose 0.3% despite most constituents finishing in the red, with the index lifted by a 1.9% gain for Commercial International Bank Egypt (COMI.CA).