

Godolphin bid for HM the King's Cup glory

Most prestigious race day in Bahrain horseracing season takes place today at REHC | P12



Millie Bobby Brown is 'ready to leave Stranger Things'

8 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5 Lexus reinvents the luxury crossover with all-new RX

Thunderstorms expected today

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The Meteorological Department has warned about thunderstorms and gusts expected today, urging people to take caution.

According to the report, the weather will be cloudy with chances for sporadic rain, which may turn thundery, particularly in marine areas. The minimum temperature would reach 18 degrees.

The wind will be southeasterly, ranging from 5 to 10 knots and reaching up to 30 knots at times, before turning Northerly from 17 to 22 knots in the evening. The wave height could reach from 1 to 2 feet near the coasts and 3 to 7 feet during gusts offshore.

Another depression is expected to pass through the region next week, causing an unstable atmosphere with opportunities for thunder on Monday.

The Meteorological Department is calling on citizens to remain vigilant.

Inter-Parliamentary Union



The heads of delegations from the legislative councils of Jordan, Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria arrived in Bahrain yesterday for the 146th session of the General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its associated meetings. The Shura Council Chairman and Speaker of the Council of Representatives welcomed them at the airport. The meetings will be held from Saturday to Wednesday. Among the delegates who arrived were Jordan's Lower House Speaker Ahmad Safadi, Egypt's House of Representatives Speaker Dr Hanafi Jebali, Oman's Shura Council Chairman Shaikh Khalid Al-Mawali, Saudi Shura Council members Dr Abdullah Salama and Major General Abdulrahman Al-Harbi, as well as their accompanying members.

Saudi to allocate \$800 min loans to least developed countries

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Saudi Arabia will allocate \$800 million through the Saudi Fund for Development to finance development projects for the Least Developed Countries in regions including Africa and Asia, a statement by the ministry of economy and planning said yesterday, reported Reuters.

Saudi posts budget surplus of \$27.68 bln in 2022



Head of the Saudi Investment Fund, Yasser al-Rumayyan

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Saudi Arabia recorded a budget surplus of 103.9 billion riyals (\$27.68 bn) in 2022, beating its own estimates, as higher oil prices boosted government revenues by 31%, Reuters reported citing finance ministry data.

The world's top oil exporter recorded real GDP growth of 8.7% in 2022 leading to its first budget surplus in almost a decade.

It had previously estimated a budget surplus of 102 billion riyals, or about 2.6% of GDP, for 2022, but is projecting a narrower surplus for 2023.

Total revenues in 2022 hit nearly 1.27 trillion riyals, up 31% over 2021, and slightly higher than estimated. Oil revenues in 2022 totalled about 857.3 bn riyals, up 52% from the previous year.

However, non-oil revenue picked up in the fourth quarter, rising 19% from the prior-year period, outperforming oil revenue which increased 17% in the fourth quarter, according to a report from the finance ministry.

Total spending in 2022 rose 12% from the previous year to 1.16 trillion riyals.

The Gulf state recorded a fiscal surplus in the first three quarters of 2022, but reported a deficit of 45.7 billion riyals in the fourth quarter, when OPEC+ oil production cuts kicked in.

BIGS 2023 begins

Bahrain International Garden Show kicks off at Exhibition World

● 18,000 square meters, 176 exhibitors

● Theme "Water: Regenerating Life"

● Open to public from 10 am to 9pm at Exhibition World until Sunday

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His Highness Shaikh Isa opens Bahrain International Garden Show 2023

Shining a light on the flourishing agro-business industry in Bahrain and wider the Arab region, the Bahrain International Garden Show 2023 kicked off yesterday at Exhibition World Bahrain, in Sakhir.

Created in response to the increasing demand from local and international gardening and agriculture companies, BIGS, organisers said, offers a platform for international exporters and investors.

This year, the show focuses on the theme "Water: Regenerating Life," emphasising the need for strong water management policies and sustainable management practices.

His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Isa bin Salman Educational Charitable Trust, inaugurated the show under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

The expo will continue until Sunday at Exhibition World Bahrain.



Botanical Atlas, Green Technology Lab

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During the inauguration, Shaikh Isa stressed the importance of the show in promoting investment in the agricultural sector and introducing promising opportunities. He also highlighted the interest of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of the great King of the country, and Chair of the Advisory Board of the National Initiative for the Development of the Agricultural Sector, in developing the agricultural sector. Shaikh Isa also highlighted

Bahrain's efforts to diversify its economy by promoting agriculture and honouring winners of the Bahrain Garden Club competition.

He also recognised the contributions of both official and private institutions towards making agriculture a vital com-

ponent of Bahrain's economic diversification efforts.

Two exhibition spaces have been allocated for the winners of the Best Bahraini Farmer in the King Hamad Prize for Agricultural Development, in addition to other spaces which have been allocated for twelve Bahraini farmers to display local produce.



BIGS offer a perfect meeting place for international exporters and investors in the gardening, agriculture and related industries - introducing them to the thriving agro-business environment in the Kingdom of Bahrain and in the Arab region.

Abu Dhabi shakes up wealth funds

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Abu Dhabi announced a reshuffle at the top of its two biggest sovereign wealth funds yesterday, appointing senior members of the royal family as chairmen.

Shaikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan was named chair of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), among the world's largest sovereign wealth funds, the government's media office said.

Shaikh Tahnoun is the brother of United Arab Emirates President Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who took office last May after acting as the country's de facto ruler for years.

Abu Dhabi also changed the top team of its second biggest wealth fund, Mubadala Investment Company, with Shaikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, owner of Manchester City football club and also the president's brother, appointed chairman yesterday. Newcomers to ADIA's board announced on Thursday were Shaikh Khaled bin Mohammed bin Zayed, the president's son and chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Office, Jassem Mohammed Al Zaabi and Hamad Mohammed Al Suwaidi.

220 fils (includes VAT)

