

Resume Causeway passbooks

Residents call for bringing back causeway passbooks to avoid frequent passport renewals

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Many residents in the Kingdom, especially top executives, who frequently travel to Saudi Arabia are pleading with the authorities to have a separate document for stamping their entry and exit visas to avoid frequent renewals of their passports.

One of the top executives in the Automobile Industry said, "I hold a British passport with 52 pages. Unfortunately, the emigration officer stamped the entry visa on a new page, ignoring my request to stamp it on a used page."

"One of my friends who also faced a similar problem recently applied for a Schengen visa and was forced to renew his passport due to the shortage of a new



Some officials take a new page each time to stamp visas, as there are also others who like to save space

page for stamping the Schengen visa. "Most often, Saudi Emigration takes long hours to verify the documents. When they have all the information in their sys-

tem, why do they take so much time to process a visa? Bahrain has a very efficient system, and the biometric system is very convenient, easy, and comfortable.

While speaking to another frequent traveller to Saudi Arabia, he said that I often meet a lady officer at emigration, and she is very supportive.

She makes sure to stamp visas on the same page to save more space in my passport. It depends on the officer in charge. If you get a nice person, they can help

the travellers. It is always better if the authorities concerned can issue an additional document or a causeway passport exclusively for a Saudi trip.



Blank pages are mandatory before arrival for getting a visa stamped, but that norm changes from country to country. Reports say Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Oman need one blank page on passports, whereas Qatar needs two. However, if you enter the territory of Palestine from Israel, your passport will not be stamped - and the blank passport pages rule won't count. Also, for travellers entering Israel, Hong Kong or Macau, the stamp will be printed on a paper, which one should keep until the end of your stay.



The passport stamp of the country of Palau is a full-page pledge, in which you sign that you will protect the nature of the country and not cause any harm.

There is a trick, says social media

According to social media claims, some travellers say they put a sticky note on blank passport pages, asking not to stamp there, to escape this scenario. People say that has worked for them.



Police arrest man for allegedly stealing from vehicles



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Southern police yesterday arrested a 20-year-old man allegedly for stealing from parked vehicles.

Cops said they arrested him after receiving complaints regarding the loss of personal

belongings and cash from several vehicles.

Southern Governorate Police said a quick investigation led to identifying the suspect and recording his arrest.

Public Prosecution is pursuing legal actions.



Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa yesterday visited one of the BDF units to review units' readiness and administrative and military preparations. The commander-in-chief appreciated the efforts of the officers, non-commissioned officers and members of the BDF in defending the homeland, preserving its historical capabilities and protecting its civilisational gains.

Capital Governorate Police Directorate yesterday organised an exhibition to combat tobacco as part of efforts to certify health-promoting workplaces (Diamond Level), in coordination with the Health and Social Affairs Directorate at the Ministry of Interior. Director General of Capital Governorate Police Directorate Brigadier Ibrahim Saif Al-Najran said they had formed a specialised team for the certification process by providing training courses. The exhibition opened on January 10 and continues until 26, aims to educate the employees of the directorate about the harmful effects of smoking. The programme focuses on introducing the side effects of tobacco and smoking, passive smoking, and electronic smoking, in addition to quitting and then following up to avoid a relapse into smoking.



BIC hosts annual F1 Bahrain GP coordination meeting with ministries, government agencies

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosted yesterday its annual coordination meeting with the Kingdom's various ministries and government agencies to discuss all matters related to the organisation and running of the fast-approaching Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2023.

Preparations have ramped up in recent weeks for the biggest event of the year, taking place from 3 to 5 March at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" in Sakhir.

BIC said it is always keen to coordinate with the Kingdom's



The coordination meeting

public offices to ensure the successful hosting of the region's

most anticipated sporting and entertainment occasion, which



attracts thousands of fans from all over the world. The year-

ly gathering organises means of management around the required procedures at various levels and reviews previous reports in order to promote a more integrated response.

The meeting was led by BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa and a number of senior management members from the various departments at the circuit. They spoke of the latest preparations and the necessary joint work with the Kingdom's ministries and government agencies for the upcoming global event.

BIC Corporate Services Director Beshara Abdu Beshara reviewed the most important as-

pects and changes in the annual plan. He also presented details of the ongoing preparations to receive the F1 teams and officials coming from abroad, and the coordination regarding the entry of the fans as well as traffic control measures within the vicinity of BIC during race week.

Beshara further discussed the reception procedures at Bahrain International Airport as well as other logistical needs and formalities. This year's F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix will be the opening round of the 2023 FIA F1 World Championship. It is the fifth time that BIC is hosting the first race of the season, following 2006, 2010, 2021 and 2022.