

'March for more growth, prosperity will continue'

HM King: Bahrainis will always remain 'center and goal of national development'



HM the King, in the presence of HRH Prince Salman, receives top legislative and judicial officials
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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa expressed resolve to continue the development march, further consolidate Bahrain's standing on the world map, and achieve citizens' aspirations for more growth and prosperity.

He praised the remarkable contributions of the Bahraini people and their key role in promoting the Kingdom's pioneering role at all levels. He asserted that Bahraini citizens will always remain the center and goal of national development.

His Majesty was speaking as he received at Sakhir Palace yesterday, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Speaker of the Council of Representatives Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Shura



Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh, Deputy President of the Supreme Judicial Council and President of the Court of Cassation Shaikh Khalid bin Ali bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, and President of the Constitutional Court Abdullah bin Hassan Al Buainin.

They extended to HM King Hamad heartfelt congratula-

tions on the 22nd anniversary of the National Action Charter (NAC), expressing appreciation of HM's wise leadership which yielded many qualitative achievements to the Kingdom and its people.

HM the King recalled the honourable and patriotic stance of the Bahraini people and their unprecedented unanimity on

attaining goals and aspirations. He affirmed that the National Action Charter will remain a roadmap to further promote democracy and development.

Good wishes

His Majesty exchanged good wishes on the occasion with them, thanking them for their

kind feelings.

He commended the numerous accomplishments brought about by the legislative branch in developing laws, boosting the civilisational and development march and defending the supreme interests of the nation.

HM the King also lauded the key role of the judicial branch in promoting justice and equality as well as protecting rights and freedom. He noted cooperation between the executive and legislative branches and the significance of further enhancing it to achieve more prosperity to the nation and citizens.

Full solidarity

HM the King reiterated Bahrain's full solidarity with Syria and Turkey to overcome the impact of the devastating earthquake which rocked the two countries recently.

BRCS seeks donations for quake victims

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The Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) announced that it will continue to receive donations from citizens and residents to help those affected by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

BRCS said that these donations are for the relief of thousands of afflicted by the earthquake that struck large areas in northern Syria and southern Turkey.

The earthquake resulted in tens of thousands of casualties and the displacement of hundreds of thousands in many towns and villages.

The BRCS called on everyone to support the victims by providing donations and provide relief aid and urgent shelter.

BRCS is working within the national campaign supported by the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) for the victims of this earthquake.

BRCS Secretary-General Mubarak Al Hadi said that these donations reflect the Kingdom's support for Syria and Turkey.

Bahrain youth 'pillar of nation and its future'

Dubai

Sustainable Development Minister Noor bint Ali Al Khulaif stressed the importance accorded to the Bahraini youth, being the pillar of the nation and its future.

She noted the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to develop the capabilities of the youth according to well-defined strategies and programmes.

The minister was speaking during her participation in a panel discussion on devoting the power of the youth to accelerate achievement of the sustainable development goals 2030.

She pointed out the support given to the youth by His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Representative of His Majesty the King for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs.

Bahrain 'top destination for Gulf travel in GCC'

Julia Cassano
TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is the top destination for Gulf travel in the GCC, according to the Gulf Statistical Council's most recent report.

The data shows that Bahrain occupied 40.5 percent of the total inter-tourism movement among the GCC countries, meaning that the Kingdom acquires over two million tourists travelling to the country from other Gulf nations.

Every year, over 12 million tourists across the Gulf coun-

tries and other nations experience the best of what Bahrain has to offer, and the country continues to build its reputation globally as a unique tourist destination. Efforts to promote the Kingdom as a unique tourist destination has ultimately led to it becoming the number one expat destination in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Following tourism plans that are set to grow GCC tourism sectors, the region plans to develop its infrastructure and programs to evolve into major tourist destinations over the coming decades.

The Gulf countries aim to develop for the future, with goals to increase the number of domestic tourists spending in the Arab Gulf countries by 2.4 percent annually.

The GCC nations are opening conversations surrounding tourism, with new projects, mega attractions, and touristic destinations beginning to develop, which is shifting the region and attracting more tourists from around the world.

As GCC countries shift their reliance on oil, and begin to advance its tourism sectors, they aim to raise the total amount

regarding travel and the tourism sector to 7 percent of the direct GDP by 2023.

According to the UNWTO, GCC travellers spend 6.5 times more compared to travellers from other parts of the world, meaning that tourist operators within the region have exceptional opportunities to grow profits.

Bahrain already houses up to a million visitors each month, and the majority of these tourists are increasingly spending more whilst they are in the country, according to the Economic Development Board (EDB).

The Kingdom has taken a fo-

cused approach of three primary consumer sectors within tourism and hospitality. Food service, retail, and leisure offer opportunities for profitable investments, and the Kingdom continues to expand its tourism sector, the EDB added.

Events and festivals, beach and maritime, food service, flagship FB and retail, leisure and entertainment, and ancillary services are key areas where Bahrain plans to advance tourism. Experts predict that by the end of 2028, tourism will contribute \$133.6 billion (BD50.4 billion) to the Middle East's GDP.

Merry mix of F1-related activities to entertain race fans at Village

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This year's edition will have lots more on offer, including F1-related activities such as racing simulators, the chance to design your very own F1 car livery with a digital paint machine, a driver selfie experience, the F1 show car and World Championship Trophy.

The main stage will be active with daily live music performances from DJs and popular bands.

Elsewhere in the Beyon Money F1 Fan Village will be a craft



Racing simulators and merchandise stands at the F1 Village

village, Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) a Beyon Money stand activation, roaming family entertainment, street artists, magicians, and much more.

Daily schedules of entertainment will be published by BIC and due to the popularity of the event, fans are urged to follow instructions on parking and ac-



cess.

The experience will help raise the level of excitement even higher ahead of the F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2023, tak-

ing place 3 to 5 March at BIC in Sakhir.

Three days of top-class motorsport will be complemented by plenty of entertaining attrac-

tions at the Bahrain Grand Prix, including concerts featuring DJ Snake and Craig David, masses of family entertainment and so much more.

Tickets to this year's F1 race weekend are selling fast. Those looking to experience the pinnacle of motorsport must therefore purchase their tickets as soon as possible to be a part of the region's biggest racing and entertainment extravaganza.

Visit bahrairngp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000 to make a purchase or to get more information on ticket prices and other hospitality options.