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HH SHAIKH KHALID BIN HAMAD AL-KHALIFA ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP - HUGE SUCCESS!



RAK EXPECTS MORE VISITORS AFTER BEING NAMED GULF TOURISM CAPITAL

INSIDE BAHRAIN

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HEALTH MINISTRY SETS UP WORK TEAMS TO IMPLEMENT GOVERNMENT INNOVATION COMPETITION'S WINNING IDEAS



The Health Ministry will set up work teams to study the implementation of the winning ideas of the third edition of the Government Innovation Competition (Fikra).

The move is in line with the

directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, while chairing this week's regular Cabinet session, to ministries and government agencies to include the winning ideas in their programmes and projects, in order to continue to promote innovation across the public sector

In this regard, the Health Minister gave instructions to form work teams to include the winning ideas within the Health Ministry's action plan.

The teams are tasked with preparing periodic reports on the progress of the implementation of those ideas, in order to be submitted to the Government Executive Committee, led by HRH Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The Health Ministry's winning concepts include 'Expanding Mental Health Services in the Community' project, presented by Buthaina Al Asfoor and Dr. Ali Al Salman, of the Psychiatric Hospital at the Ministry of Health, and the 'Medic in Every Home' project, presented by Kawther Foad Salman and Nadia Jasim Abudrees.

Chairing the Health Ministry's management's weekly meeting, the minister lauded the high level of the creative and innovative ideas and their role in enhancing the quality and efficiency of the services delivered by the health sector to the citizens and residents.

The Health Ministry's officials praised HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's forward-looking vision to include such outstanding ideas in the government's action plan in order to implement the vision and objectives of the competition aimed at stimulating creativity and innovation in the public sector.

The Minister expressed hope that the goals of the winning ideas will be implemented on the ground in order to achieve maximum benefits from them and meet the needs and requirements of the coming period.

WORKS, MUNICIPALITIES AFFAIRS AND URBAN PLANNING MINISTERS LAUNCHES PROJECT



The iconic Ain Rayaa Garden is to be revamped, in line with the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to launch projects across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister Esam bin

Abdulla Khalaf unveiled the BD170,000 schemes, as parts of development projects in the areas of Al-Dair and Samaheej.

The minister reviewed details of the project with Council of Representatives member Mp Dr. Hesham Al Asheeri, Muncipal Councilor Fadhel Al Oud,

Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al-Khalifa and Assistant Undersecretary for Joint Municipal Services Shawqiya Humaidan.

The project which coveres 1600 square metres will feature investment areas, green spaces, public services, parking lots

and other facilities for visitors.

A monument with a distinctive design will also be set up near the iconic Ain Rayaa, which symbolizes the beautiful memories of the residents of the Al Dair and the Samaheej who lived through that past era of agricultural heritage.

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INSIDE ARABIA

ROP LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE TRAFFIC SERVICES



The Royal Oman Police launched an electronic driver testing system as part of the Police Day celebrations.

Lt-Gen Hassan Mohsen Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, inaugurated an online system for traffic safety institutes in various governorates and also launched three electronic services related to the traffic. This include an electronic system to test new drivers, a service for obtaining e-driving licence and vehicle registration card.

In a statement issued, Royal Oman Police said : "The electronic drivers

examination test system aims to facilitate the application procedures and perform the test through a technical system that allows a person to perform the initial test to obtain a driver's licence."

"The electronic drivers 'test system is considered the first part of the integrated electronic driver inspection system, as this system was built according to electronic work procedures that begin with providing the request to apply for a driving licence, book appointments electronically, perform theoretical tests electronically, and move to the stage of advanced simulation devices that use augmented reality technology, in which environment models of different terrain and local roads are taken into account in the different wilayat of the Sultanate in order to ensure the efficiency of road users to reach a safe driving," ROP stated.

"The activation of traffic safety institutes in the various governorates of the Sultanate ushered in the launch of an integrated electronic system that uses modern technology and advanced devices in the training and qualification of vehicle drivers, to raise their level of traffic awareness through an advanced methodology in partnership with local and international scientific bodies and specialized expertise houses," ROP added.

RAK EXPECTS MORE VISITORS AFTER BEING NAMED GULF TOURISM CAPITAL



More tourists are expected to explore Ras Al Khaimah this year, especially after it was named 2021 Gulf Tourism Capital, the emirate's Crown Prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, has said.

Ras Al Khaimah bagged the title at the fifth annual meeting of tourism ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in November.

Sheikh Mohammed said the GCC recognition "will strengthen the

emirate's position on the international tourism map and will contribute to attracting larger numbers of tourists and visitors."

"Ras Al Khaimah has witnessed, in recent years, a large-scale transformation, especially in vital facilities and services, infrastructure, education and healthcare sectors," he said.

According to the emirate's Tourism Development Authority, it received 1.12 million visitors in 2019, a 4 percent increase, compared to 2018.

The authority also reported in November that during the Eid Al Adha break, the emirate witnessed a 12.9 percent growth in the average daily rate (ADR), saying this increase was the highest in the last three years under normal (non-pandemic) travel circumstances.

Ras Al Khaimah has rapidly grown into a popular adventure hub in the region. Not only does it have the world's longest zipline on Jebel Jais, it also has the newly opened Bear Grylls survival camp.

In an exclusive interview with the Emirates News Agency (WAM), Sheikh Mohammed said Ras Al Khaimah said he has kept pace with the country's overall development journey to

accomplish achievements in all fields.

"We are working tirelessly to carry out the directives of the H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, to enhance the development process, which is being witnessed in the emirate at various levels, as we ultimately aim to achieve the wellbeing of Emiratis," he said.

Talking about the UAE's development plan for the next 50 years, he said the country will be "exploring promising prospects, ensuring the provision of a world-class quality life for generations to come, preparing for the post-oil era, developing unique initiatives and translating them into an integrated work programme that contributes to achieving the UAE's national strategy."

Sheikh Mohammed, who became the Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah in 2010, also lauded the UAE's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, saying that it "reflected the highest levels of professionalism."

"And Ras Al Khaimah has made tireless efforts, as it provided a distinguished healthcare system capable of efficiently dealing with the repercussions of this pandemic," he added.

GEAR HEAD GUIDE

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2021 LEXUS IS350 AND IS350 F-SPORT RELEASED IN BAHRAIN



The new 2021 Lexus IS was unveiled today by Ebrahim K. Kanoo via a unique and engaging virtual reveal at the Lexus showroom in Sitra. Since its debut nearly 20 years ago, the IS has thrived on exhilarating performance in the form of a true rear-wheel-drive luxury sports sedan.

Finding the perfect balance of sportiness and sophistication is no easy task, but the 2021 Lexus IS walks that fine line with effortless elegance and sets a new paradigm for compact luxury sport sedans. With its enhanced chassis and suspensions, linear

steering, and lower, wider stance, the IS forges an indelible bond between driver and machine. And with a new touchscreen multimedia system and the advanced Lexus Safety System, the 2021 Lexus IS thrills through innovation

Ebrahim K. Kanoo Director, Mr. Isa Mohamed Kanoo highlighted the importance of the IS in the Lexus line-up stating, "It is undeniable that Lexus, with its exceptional craftsmanship, is among the top favourite car brands in the region. The IS has left a lasting impression on the compact luxury

sports sedan segment, where dynamic capability and driving performance are mandatory attributes. This year's model has undergone great exterior and interior design upgrades for both the IS350 and the F-Sport models, and we are confident that it will surpass the expectations of our loyal customers."

Once again using its signature Global Architecture (GA-K) to lower and widen the body of its vehicles, the IS was created to immerse the driver further into the unique driving experience, and bring all controls closer for a safer, more seamless experience.

Apart from the beautiful upgrades to the grille and lamps, new 18" and 19" alloy wheels have been introduced as well as new exterior colours. The interior has also been generously recreated with a sporty feel, an updated 10.3" touch display and round A/C vents.

The IS350 F-Sport model comes with its own unique F lineage grille, front bumper garnish and rear bumper mesh, which enhance the car's sporty character. Exclusive 19" alloy wheels further embellish the F-Sport.

LIFE QUOTES

FOOLISH THINGS I HAVE DONE



Reflection is an activity that is quite commonly used in coaching. There are several ways to do it, I came across this technique which helps you reflect and also have fun along with it. It helps you take yourself lightly as well. This was a technique described in the book

"How To Stop Worrying And Start Living" by Dale Carneige

Most of us will agree that when we think of ourselves few years back we would always say OMG I was so stupid, so angry and so many things. This never stops. 10 years from now we will say those same things to our present selves. So why not make it fun?!

Make a folder and write all the things till now that you have realized you have made an error in. Be bluntly honest and keep maintaining this over a period of time. When I get out folder and re-read the criticisms I have written of myself, they help me deal with the toughest problem I shall ever face.

Reviewing can take time and not very pleasant at first. Sometimes I am astonished by my own blunders. Of course, as the years have gone by, these blunders have become less frequent. This system of self-analysis over time has done more for me

than any other one thing I have ever attempted

You can even do this on a daily basis. Most people will notice these faults which are commonly wasting time, stewing around over trifles, arguing and contradicting people. Eliminating these will gradually help us become better.

So battle these and keep a record of the days when you won. Elbert Hubbard said: "Every man is a damn fool for at least five minutes every day. Wisdom consists in not exceeding that limit."

This is my favorite extract from the

hook:-

'The small man flies into a rage over the slightest criticism, but the wise man is eager to learn from those who have censured him. Walt Whitman says: "Have you learned lessons only of those who admired you, and were tender with you, and stood aside for you? Have you not learned great lessons from those who rejected you, and braced themselves against you, or disputed the passage with you?"

Instead of waiting for our enemies to criticize us or our work, let's beat them to it. Let's be our own most severe critic.'

Let's find and remedy all our weaknesses before our enemies get a chance to say a word. Try this simple technique and write to me on how you found it!



Riya Bhansali Yoga Teacher and Life Coach Follow her on Youtube :- Riya Bhansali, Instagram :- Riyyog

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TECH UPDATE

THE REIGN OF THE E-COMMERCE INDUSTRY



Although 2020 witnessed the closure of several business and industries, the e-commerce industry is here to stay.



The E-commerce industry had quite an impact on the shopping experience of individuals, as the global pandemic forced closure of retail stores worldwide, compelling consumers to shift their shopping preferences online. However, regions across the globe have responded differently to this change thus showcasing contrasting results in ecommerce spending.

A report by Statista.com stated that in 2020 alone, retail e-commerce sales globally were expected to hit \$3.9 trillion; Asia Pacific expected to be making \$2.45 trillion in online sales. North America was projected to be second in line, likely to generate online retail sales of \$749 billion.

Mauro Romano, CEO and Co-Founder of ArabClicks, said, "The global pandemic probably worked in favour of online businesses. With several consumers not willing to compromise on their shopping preferences, this came across as an opportunity for businesses to upscale their ventures and revamp their products and services to closely match the needs of their consumers. We are presently seeing so many businesses thriving online and I believe this trend is here to stay."

In a report highlighting leading e-commerce retailers during the year, Statista.com listed WooCommerce as the leading e-commerce platform accumulating market shares of 28.24 percent. This was followed by Squarespace online stores with shares of 17.69 percent and Shopify making shares worth10.98 percent.

These online businesses have a strategic way of carrying out their activities that helps them conduct their business effectively and efficiently. These platforms make use of the 'E-commerce software,' that helps manage online activities including handling inventory, changing the visibility of products, calculating taxes and complying to various orders of customers. In 2018 alone this software application market encompassed a value around \$5.1 billion and is expected to reach approximately \$6.3 billion by 2023. With e-commerce industries doing exceptionally well e-commerce sales worldwide are expected to climb to a whopping \$6.5 trillion by 2023.

Overtime, it has been observed that consumers find it increasingly convenient to make their online purchases using their mobile phones, with approximately 64 percent of the traffic coming through these devices. South Korea and China having experienced the highest online penetration with approximately 83 per cent of shoppers making purchases online. Some of the leading e-commerce industries today happen to be Chines companies such as Taobao. com, Tmall and JD.com. American e-retailer giant Amazon has also attracted customers due to its diverse

offerings.

The digital revolution leading all nations has had its impact on the e-commerce industry as well. With consumer behaviours rapidly changing, this platform can change to accommodate the needs of the consumers, thus continuing to be the preferred mode of making purchases.





PR THIS WEEK





GULF AIR EXTENDS ITS 'NO FEES, UNLIMITED CHANGES' CAMPAIGN

Gulf Air - the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain – has announced the extension of its 'No Fees, Unlimited Changes' campaign allowing passengers to change bookings, exchange and refund tickets until 31 March 2021. Originally launched in March 2020, the campaign was one of the first global airline responses to provide peace of mind to Gulf Air passengers in relation to the COVID-19 situation and its global impact on air transport.

Passengers are eligible to unlimited changes to their travel dates without paying any change fees by visiting 'Manage My Booking' on Gulf Air's website or mobile app or by contacting the airline's Contact Centre. Passengers who have made their bookings through a travel agent are advised to get in touch with the issuing agents to make changes.

Gulf Air would like to reassure its loyal passengers that it continues to

apply heightened disinfection protocols inside the aircraft cabin and it urges passengers to comply with health and safety regulations throughout their journey. The airline continuously coordinates with the relevant authorities in the Kingdom of Bahrain and with airports throughout its network to take all precautionary and preventive measures in order to ensure the safety of all passengers and crew.

Being one of the few airlines that continued scheduled commercial operations, Gulf Air continues to work closely with the government authorities throughout the destinations on its network to resume operations as soon as airports open. Gulf Air boasts a flexible and agile network by immediately adapting to government orders and civil aviation directives around its network and has been responsive to continuous changes and updates regarding operations to and from its network destinations.



14TH TOYOTA DREAM CAR ART CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Ebrahim K. Kanoo, the sole distributor of Toyota vehicles in the Kingdom of Bahrain, welcomed the winners of the 14th edition of the "Toyota Dream Car Art Contest" for 2020 at the Toyota showroom in Sitra.

The annual art contest catered to three age categories, with three winners in each. Seven years and below winners were: 1st place Isabella Sofia Amistoso, 2nd place Ameya Jha, and 3rd place Aarav Sachin Chamadia.

In the eight to eleven year old category the winners were: 1st place Harleen Kaur, 2nd place Sarah Fasquel and in 3rd place Hana Sioting Galawingee.

In the twelve to fifteen year old category, the winners were: 1st place -Deekshith Krishna Puliparambhil Subin, 2nd place - Rayona Roy and in 3rd place - Nandana Malarampath.

The winners were welcomed at the showroom by renowned local Bahraini artist, and art contest judge; Abbas Al Mosawi who, along with Senior Manager of Toyota and Lexus marketing at Ebrahim K. Kanoo Mr. Ayman Shehadeh, distributed the cash prizes ranging between BD100 to BD250 as well as a special creative kit from Toyota Bahrain.





AL BARAKA ISLAMIC BANK WINS TWO PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS FROM IRBA

Al Baraka Islamic Bank (AIB), one of the leading Bahraini financial institutions in the field of Islamic banking, has been awarded the 'Best Islamic Retail Bank for Social Responsibility Award 2020' and 'Best Islamic Retail Banking Product (Assets Side) 2020 for Tamkeen Finance' by the Awards Committee of the Islamic Retail Banking Awards (IRBA). The Online Awards Ceremony (OAC) of the 6th edition was held live on 15th of December 2020 and broadcasted through multiple online channels.

"Tamkeen Finance" allows entrepreneurs to grow their businesses further with fully Shari'a-compliant finance facilities from Al Baraka Islamic Bank in partnership with Tamkeen.

Commenting on the occasion, Chief Executive Officer of Al Baraka Islamic Bank, Mr. Hamad Abdulla Al Oqab, said: "We, at Al Baraka Islamic Bank, are very keen on enhancing our banking services to suit the various requirements and needs of our cherished customers. These efforts reflect our constant endeavors to ensure their satisfaction, trust, and loualtu to the bank. We are extremelu honored and proud of receiving the "Best Islamic Retail Bank for Social Responsibility in Bahrain 2020" award from this prestigious institution, and we perceive it as an added motivation for us to continue improving our retail banking portfolio and creating valueadded products, along with offering the best Sharia-compliant banking services around."

The Islamic Retail Banking Awards (IRBA) is the first-of-its-kind Islamic banking awards program based on the most academically rigorous analysis of global Islamic banking efficiency performance.



Ebrahim K. Kanoo held an internal ceremony to celebrate the successful completion of the first batch of its Bahraini graduate trainee program 'Tamach'

Tomooh' (Arabic for ambition) is Ebrahim K. Kanoo's two year recruitment and development program, designed to provide both general professional skills and specialist technical development opportunities to Bahraini graduates. The graduates are selected from different majors and go through a job rotation schedule in order to understand every division of the company and decide where their individual strengths can be best utilised. This year marks the successful completion of the first batch of 10 Bahraini graduates completing their two-year company rotation and final

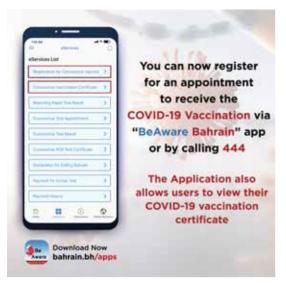
placements.

Ebrahim K. Kanoo Managing Director, Mr. Talal Kanoo congratulated the students on their success and highlighted them as the future of the company stating, "At Ebrahim Khalil Kanoo we strongly believe in recruiting talented, ambitious Bahrainis and developing their potential to the fullest. The Tomooh program was created to hire the brightest minds from across the kingdom to learn about our business and see if they could find areas of improvement. I am very proud to say that we have had interesting suggestions from our graduates, many of which have already been implemented in the business. I personally look forward to keeping track of their careers with us and wish them every success."

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I GOVERNMENT

Registration for COVID-19 Vaccine and Vaccination Certifications can be obtained via 'BeAware Bahrain' App



In support of national efforts to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), BeAware Bahrain App users can now register for government-approved COVID-19 vaccines and receive their vaccination certificates all via the app. The vaccines, which are optional, are available to all citizens and residents in the Kingdom at no cost.

Anyone who wishes to make appointments for the approved vaccines via the app can select 'Registration for Vaccination' in the eServices menu, then choose between the American Pfizer or Chinese Sinopharm vaccines. Users must enter their personal details and information related to their medical conditions in the specified fields, and send their requests to the Ministry of Health, which will respond via SMS or phone call to confirm the location and date of the vaccinations.

Users can also have their COVID-19 vaccination certificates issued via the app once they have received the two doses, with 21 days in between each dose.

As per the directions of the National Taskforce for Combatting the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the services are available for individuals over 18 years old, particularly those suffering from chronic and underlying diseases and asthma. Patients can take the vaccines three months following recovery from any illnesses including COVID-19. The service is currently not available for pregnant and nursing women, children, and individuals with severe allergies towards the contents of the vaccine.

It's important to note that vaccinations don't eliminate the precautionary measures in place, as everyone must still abide by social distancing guidelines to help stop the spread of the virus.

For more information, please visit the National Portal bahrain.bh. For any suggestions or enquiries, please contact us via the National Suggestions & Complaints System Tawasul at bahrain.bh/apps or bahrain.bh/tawasul.

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HP UPDATES

SECOND PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK AT BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE



His Excellency the Minister of Transportation & Telecommunications and Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) Chairman, Eng. Kamal bin Ahmed Mohamed paid an inspection visit to Bahrain International Airport (BIA) to follow up on the progress of construction at the new Passenger Terminal. The second phase, which is proceeding on schedule, is taking place in the eastern part of the existing airport. The site has been cordoned off to maintain the highest levels of safety and security.

HE the Minister, BAC officials, and representatives of the project's main contractor, Arabtec TAV, were briefed on the latest developments, including demolition works and the removal of all internal equipment and installations, floors, ceilings, non-bearing partition walls, mechanical and electrical systems, and air conditioning systems.

HE the Minister emphasized the importance of maintaining the current pace of work, completing the second phase on time, and ensuring that the construction does not impact airport operations. Reiterating that 2021 will be a major turning point for the airport, HE the Minister praised the ongoing efforts of Team Bahrain, which started work on this important national development project four years ago.

HE the Minister noted that the USD1.1 billion Airport Modernization Program (AMP) is the largest investment in Bahrain's aviation sector for more than 20 years and will usher in a new era for air transport in the Kingdom.

In addition to the new Passenger Terminal and related projects such as the Central Utilities Complex, the Multi-storey Cark Park, Staff Parking Area, Super Gate and Fire Station, the AMP includes several infrastructure development projects that will contribute to the realization of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, laying the foundation for a more sustainable and diversified economy.

The transference of operations to the new terminal will signal a major shift in the Kingdom's aviation sector. This will be complemented with Fuel Farm Complex operations, including three aviation fuel tanks. The coming months will also see the inauguration of the new private aviation terminal, which will cater to businessmen and private aircraft owners. The private aviation terminal will be a major contributor to trade and will support the growth of the tourism and travel sector for decades to come.

Four times larger than the existing facility, the new Passenger Terminal is equipped with the latest technologies and supported by high quality infrastructure. It will increase the airport's capacity to 14 million passengers per year, delivering a comfortable and hassle-free airport experience.

SPORTS

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HH SHAIKH KHALID BIN HAMAD AL-KHALIFA ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP - HUGE SUCCESS!



On the directives and follow-up of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of HM the King for Humanitarian Works and Youth Affairs, Honourary President of Bahrain Royal Equestrian and Endurance Federation (BREEF), HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports First Deputy Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President

deputised HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of BREEF to crown the winners in the Khalid bin Hamad Endurance Race which covered a distance of 120 km in the presence of HH Shaikh Faisal bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Vice President of the Supreme Council for the Environment (SCE) Vice President of the Coordination, Execution and Follow-up Committee

(Estijabah) committee.

The event was won by Isa Al Enzi of the Victorious team, followed by Sarhan Al Enzi of the Al Safanat stud, and Shahad Waleed of Al Zaeem team in second and third places respectively.

In the stud category, Sarhan Al Enzi came first, and Ahmed Ali of Al Safanat stud finished second. Shaikh Saqer bin Khalid Al Khalifa of Ahmed Al Fateh stud completed the event in third.

On this occasion, HH Shaikh Nasser praised the support of HH Shaikh Khalid, which has played a key role in accomplishing many successes, stating that such accomplishments will have a positive impact on Bahrain's foreign outings and the development of the endurance sport in the country.

He also praised the multiple gains achieved in the race following the wide participation and the fierce competition seen in the event, pointing out that this is a clear proof of the great interest in this sport among the society. He indicated that this event will fuel the participants' motivation ahead of Bahrain's most prestigious endurance event, which is HM the King Cup.

Furthermore, HH Shaikh Nasser

praised the performances showcased in the race, congratulating the winners.

From his side, HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa expressed utmost happiness after the race proved to be a tremendous success, hailing at the same time the support provided to it by HH Shaikh Nasser Nasser. He stated that the event generated huge benefits for all the participants, whose performances were well-noted and confirmed their great preparations for the race.

Meanwhile, HH Shaikh Isa bin Abdullah Al Khalifa thanked HH Shaikh Nasser for the tremendous efforts he is exerting to support the equestrian and endurance sports. He underscored that HH Nasser's presence to follow the race played a key role in making it a huge success and encouraging the participants to give their best. He also valued HH Shaikh Khalid's sponsorship and his unwavering backing to this sport.

It's worth noting that the eventual winner Isa Al Enzi completed the event in 4 hours, 26 minutes and one second, while the runner up Sarhan Al Enzi posted a time of 4 hours, 52 minutes and 13 seconds.



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