

HM KING AWARDED ABU BAKR AL SIDDIQUE MEDAL – FIRST CLASS



HRH THE CROWN
PRINCE AND PRIME
MINISTER INAUGURATES
STATE-OF-THE-ART BIBF
HEADQUARTERS IN
BAHRAIN BAY

SPOTLIGHT

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His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received, at Al Safriya Palace, Deputy Prime Minister, Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) Chairman, Chair of the 45th session of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO) Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa.

The Deputy Prime Minister was accompanied by ARCO Secretary-General Dr. Saleh bin Hamad Al Tuwaijri, Saudi Red Crescent Authority (SRCA) President Dr. Jalal Mohammed Al Owaisi, Egyptian Red Crescent Chief Rami Jameel Al Nadher, Iraqi Red Crescent Society Chairman Yassine Ahmed Abbas and Palestinian Red Crescent Society Chairman Yunis Nimr Al Khateeb.

ARCO Secretary-General Dr. Saleh bin Hamad Al Tuwaijri presented HM the King with the Abu Bakr Al Siddique Medal – First Class, in recognition of his efforts to support humanitarian work in the Arab and international areas.

The Abu Bakr Al Siddique Medal – First Class, is the highest ARCO

decoration conferred on kings and heads of states in recognition of their support to the international movement, Red Crescent and Red Cross.

Addressing the ceremony, Dr. Al Tuwaijri hailed HM the King's leading role in supporting humanitarian work,

commending Bahrain's dedication and noble stances on the local and international arenas.

He said that ARCO General Assembly decided, at its forty-third session, to bestow the Abu Bakr Al Siddique Medal – First Class on HM

the King in recognition of Bahrain's support to humanitarian work.

HM the King thanked the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO), praising its role in promoting Arab humanitarian work and supporting Arab national societies in the humanitarian and relief aid fields. He commended cooperation and coordination between ARCO and BRCS in this regard.

HM the King highlighted Bahrain's keenness on supporting charity, humanitarian and voluntary work, taking pride in the Kingdom's honourable standing in these fields. He praised Bahrainis' firm belief in the values of goodness and solidarity which stem from the teachings of Islam and authentic national values.

He valued BRCS' efforts, noble mission and contributions to support humanitarian work and provide relief aid to refugees and disaster-stricken people to alleviate their suffering, in addition to fostering the culture of voluntary work which contributes to consolidating the values of solidarity, cooperation and giving in Bahraini society.

HM the King underlined Bahrain's firm approach based on cooperation and solidarity with peoples, especially in times of adversity, wishing ARCO chairman and members success in their noble and humanitarian mission.

Deputy Prime Minister and Bahrain Red Crescent Society (BRCS) Chairman, Chair of the 45th session of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organisation (ARCO) Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, expressed deepest thanks and gratitude to HM the King for receiving the delegation.

Dr. Al Tuwaijri also paid tribute to HM the King and hailed royal support to humanitarian and relief aid work, adding that charity work has flourished in the era of HM the King.



HH SHAIKH KHALID BIN HAMAD ORDERS ESTABLISHMENT OF FINANCIAL PORTFOLIO TO SUPPORT BAHRAINI SPORTS



His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the General Sports Authority and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee, has directed the establishment of the financial portfolio of the General Sports Authority (GSA).

This decision was taken by His Highness during his Majlis at Al

Wadi Palace.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Vice President of the General Sports Authority, Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Minister of Finance and National Economy, Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf, Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Ayman bin Tawfiq

Almoayed, Minister of Youth and Sports Affairs, Sameer Abdullah Nass, Chairman of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Shaikh Nawaf bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, CEO of the Electricity and Water Authority, Jamal Abdulaziz Al Alawi, CEO of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA), Khalid Ibrahim Humaidan, CEO of the Economic Development Board, Husain Mohammed Rajab, CEO of Labor Fund (Tamkeen), Khalid Al Rumaihi, CEO of Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company, and Dr Abdulrahman Sadiq Askar, CEO of the General Sports Authority.

His Highness welcomed the attendees and conveyed to them the greetings of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Moreover, His Highness expressed the wishes of HM the King for continued success in their tasks and duties that are in line with the vision of the Government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to achieve the goals of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

During the meeting, HH Shaikh Khalid reviewed the objectives of

the financial portfolio of the General Sports Authority, which is based on providing facilities and privileges to supporters and investors in the sports sector.

His Highness aims to make this financial portfolio a producer of opportunities that enhance the direction of investment in sports and support the efforts of the General Sports Authority in the implementation of development projects.

Moreover, these projects help achieve levels of professionalism in sports, which can be turned into a significant industry with entertainment qualities that serve the development of the sports work system and pushes it towards greater levels with more accomplishments.

His Highness discussed with the attendees the development of plans and visions in the short and long term, through which it is possible to seize the available investment opportunities.

In addition to diversifying investments in the portfolio, His Highness also stressed the importance of concerted efforts to achieve the desired accomplishments that advance the Bahraini sports movement.

INSIDE ARABIA

FOLK FESTIVAL PRESENTS THE ANCIENT TREASURES OF THE SAUDI SOUTHWEST



The Qimam Mountain Performing Arts Festival, which was held in the Asir region showcased rich Saudi folk art.

The festival presented the ancient arts that have been preserved in this mountainous region – Qimam means summits – in the southwest of the country which has the highest peaks in the Kingdom.

The festival took place in the palaces of Bin Mushait, Abu Sarrah, and Qasr Malik. The architecture of these palaces bears the same distinctive quality as can be found in the local folk art, Khaled Al-Took, a national tour guide, told Arab News.

Visitors enjoyed performing arts shows – including folk dancing – and poetry evenings, buy folk handicrafts and taste traditional food. They could watch a welcome dance that Asir dancers have long used to welcome performers from elsewhere, in an ancient local tradition.

Visitors could learn the mountain dances with their different rhythms and melodies and even joined in the fun.

The festival included walking trips led by professional mountain guides.

There was also a visual arts exhibition that presented the creativity in fine arts in the region.

Qimam aims to promote the natural assets and cultural treasures of the region and enhance the presence of Saudi folklore globally while also supporting the local community in promoting their traditions.

PR THIS WEEK

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RECOGNITION FOR ROYAL THAI RESTAURANT

The Gulf Hotel Bahrain Convention and Spa announced that their Royal Thai Restaurant has been awarded the 'Seal of Approval for Thai Cuisine' by the Ministry of Commerce, Thailand.

The prestigious certificate is awarded to restaurants serving authentic Thai cuisine, using ingredients imported directly from Thailand. Royal Thai is to date, the island's favourite Thai cuisine

destination, not only for its exquisite food, but also for its gracious hospitality and atmosphere.

The restaurant never fails to impress its guests, with its genuine and exotic settings, which is further enhanced inside the restaurant as guests are greeted with enchanting Asian décor and world class Thai cuisine, offering the best mix of both traditional and modern Thai food.



BAHRAIN AIRPORT COMPANY STAFF RECEIVE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the operator and managing body of Bahrain International Airport (BIA), announced that two team members have completed the ACI-ICAO Airport Management Professional Accreditation Programme (AMPAP). The program is the global standard for excellent in airport management and leads to the International Airport Professional (IAP) qualification. BAC Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah said, "One of BAC's foremost missions is to continue developing Bahraini talent in the aviation industry, and our ongoing training and skill development programs contribute to BAC's success at an organisational level, ensuring that we stay at the forefront of the aviation industry

developments and best practices. We are pleased to announce that Mr. Mohamed AlSayed, Director Fire Fighter and Rescue and Mrs. Sara Sabt, Manager Risk and Compliance have successfully completed the Airport Management Professional Accreditation and are joining their colleagues who have graduated from this program previously to support BAC in achieving its strategy and development plans." The International Airport Professional qualification provides participants with insights into all functional areas of the airport business such as operations, security, finance, commercial management, and airport development. It also promotes adherence to the highest professional standards.



ESG ROADMAP ON TRACK FOR ALBA

Alba is getting closer to realise the full potential of our ESG goals, especially when it comes to Waste Management, with the Spent Pot Lining (SPL) Treatment Plant in full operational swing to produce HiCal, as stated the Chairman of Alba's Board of Directors, Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Bin Daij Al Khalifa, during the opening of the Spent Pot Lining Treatment Plant in early December 2021.

Built over 26,000 square meters with an annual capacity to treat 30,000 to 35,000 tonnes of SPL, Alba's SPL Treatment Plant is the first-of-its kind in the Region. Alba has relied on the Australian-based Regain as the technology provider for this facility. Now that SPL Treatment Plant is in operations, Alba will ensure to fully destruct the hazardous waste present in SPL, generated from

smelting operations, following which the final product could be used in the construction and cement industries.

Adding further, Alba's Chairman of the Board of Directors Shaikh Daij bin Salman bin Daij Al Khalifa stated: "This Project represents a tangible and a real progress, not only in addressing our commitment as well as stakeholders' interests to reduce and recycle waste but also in transforming SPL into a value-added product and creating sustainable value in a circular economy.

Our ESG roadmap, to be published in February 2022, will further address Alba's needs and must-do-initiatives in its pursuit to embrace our nation's Environmental & Carbon reduction's objectives under the leadership of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister to reach net zero by 2060."



IMPROVING FIRE SAFETY MEASURES IN COORDINATION WITH BAHRAIN CIVIL DEFENSE

In coordination with Bahrain Civil Defense, Ramada Hotel and Suites by Wyndham, Amwaj Islands and Wyndham Garden Manama, Juffair had successfully conducted a fire evacuation drill during the past week at both their premises.

The warning alarm rang in the hotels, following which all employees left the main buildings to designated emergency assembly points, after receiving guidelines from the safety

and security staff at each hotel along with Bahrain Civil Defense team.

Both hotel's management expressed their gratitude towards the application of the evacuation in a record time of 5 minutes, which indicates the understanding among various departments and employees of teamwork and awareness extent to take the necessary procedures in managing the crises.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister inaugurates state-of-the-art BIBF Headquarters in Bahrain Bay



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, inaugurated the new headquarters of the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF), in Bahrain Bay.

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad highlighted the important role played by the banking and finance sector in supporting the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

His Royal Highness emphasised that the inauguration of the new state-of-the-art BIBF headquarters will contribute to the sector's development and benefit both the economy and Bahraini citizens.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister noted the importance of investing in the Kingdom's workforce by providing quality opportunities

and developing educational and training institution capabilities within the financial services sector. This will enhance economic performance and efficiency, in accordance with the objectives of the Economic Recovery Plan and Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.

His Royal Highness toured the 25,000 square metre building which can accommodate 1,200 trainees at any given time. The building's facilities include: an auditorium, smart classrooms, high-tech computer labs, and the region's first simulated dealing room. The campus's facilities have been equipped with the latest technologies that, in tandem with updated academic and training programmes, have been developed to satisfy employer skill and experience requirements.

HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad was also briefed on The BIBF's 40-year history, including its 600 programmes

and numerous international partnerships, particularly with The London Institute of Banking & Finance (LIBF) with whom 3 agreements have been signed. These agreements will ensure that a number of The BIBF's programmes and services, in partnership with LIBF, are provided globally.

The Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Chairman of the Board of Directors, HE Rasheed Al-Maraj, extended his thanks and appreciation on behalf of the BIBF's Board of Directors and staff to His Royal Highness for inaugurating the Institute's new headquarters.

HE Al-Maraj highlighted that HM the King's Royal Directives and HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister's ongoing support is foundational to The BIBF achieving its vision.

HE Al-Maraj emphasised that the

BIBF's plans and programmes have been developed in accordance with The Economic Recovery Plan 2022-2026. HE added that The BIBF's primary function is to enhance the Kingdom's specialised training credentials through the provision of skilled and qualified professionals for the banking and finance sector.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister, HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Deputy Prime Minister, HE Shaikh Khaled bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Labour and Social Development, HE Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan, and several other senior officials.

EGOVERNMENT

Renew Your Mailbox Online Quickly and Easily Through Bahrain.bh!

Two convenient channels to get your local or international shipping cost



While digital services are exploding in popularity, physical mailboxes still have their uses for receiving documents and packages. You can renew your mailbox online easily, and conduct a number of other mailbox related transactions by using Bahrain Post services on the National Portal, bahrain.bh.

Provided by the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication (MTT), in cooperation with the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA), the services help to make life easier by allowing users to easily pay mailbox renewal fees, update their contact information, calculate mailing costs locally and internationally, enquire about the status of package deliveries, and view the location and details of post offices and public mailboxes in Bahrain.

To pay for the renewal of mailboxes, owners are required to enter their mailbox and ID num-

bers. Renewal is valid for one year. Users looking to enquire about the status of package deliveries can simply enter their item number in the designated field under 'Tracking of Postal Packages'. The Mailing Calculator displays local and international rates, allowing users to compare the mailing costs of packages. Lastly, the 'Post Office and Public Mailbox Locator' provides addresses, contact numbers, and working hours of post offices, along with any special services they offer.

For more information, please visit the National Portal, bahrain.bh. For inquiries, visit the National Suggestions and Complaints System (Tawasul) available via bahrain.bh/tawasul, download the Tawasul app from the eGovernment Apps Store bahrain.bh/apps, or call the Government Services Contact Center on 80008001.

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 INFORMATION &
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SPORTS

FIRST-EVER MMA SUPER CUP TO TAKE PLACE DURING THE 2022 BRAVE INTERNATIONAL COMBAT WEEK IN BAHRAIN



BRAVE International Combat week will be, once again, the stage for a milestone for the sport of Mixed Martial Arts. During a press conference held in the Kingdom of Bahrain, it was announced that the 2022 BRAVE ICW will host the very first edition of the MMA Super Cup.

The MMA Super Cup is a new tournament promoted in association with KHK Sports, BRAVE CF, the

International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF), and the Bahrain Mixed Martial Arts Federation (BMMAF), with 8 teams competing for the title of best nation in the world and the largest prize money ever paid for an amateur MMA tournament.

The press conference announcing the launch of BICW 2022 took place at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, in Manama, and was held by KHK

Sports CEO and BRAVE CF President Mohammed Shahid, IMMAF president Kerrith Brown, and the Bahrain MMA Federation Mohammed Qamber.

The participating teams were selected through the IMMAF Senior Global Rankings, with the spots being awarded to the six best ranked countries: Russia, Ukraine, Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Ireland, and Tajikistan. They will be joined by two wildcards, the Balkan Champions and the Arab Champions, in the knockout tournament bracket.

Each team will be composed of 9 fighters (7 males and 2 females), one per weight class. Three alternates, or substitutes, two male athletes and one female, will also be allowed per team.

After the initial draw determining the quarter-finals, each round will consist of 9 bouts between two teams. Each fight will consist of 3, 3-minute rounds. No draws will be allowed, with extra rounds being added until one fighter is the winner if the match ends in a tie. The team with more wins after all fights will be declared the winner.

The four winners of the first round will meet in the semifinals and, finally, the two semifinal winners will compete in the grand final, for the MMA Super Cup trophy and a US\$ 100,000 check. The runner-up team will take US\$ 75,000 home and the winner of the third place match will take US\$ 50,000. The prize money will be directed to the investment of the respective national federations.

The MMA Super Cup is the next step towards the vision of His Highness Shaikh Khaled bin Hamad al Khalifa of reforming the MMA industry, changing its landscape from an event-business to a sports-business under a new model and global regulation and governance.

BRAVE International Combat Week, and the inaugural MMA Super Cup, will take place in the Kingdom of Bahrain from March 7th (arrivals) to 12th (finals). The week-long festivities will include the first edition of the MMA Super Cup and BRAVE CF 57, the first card of the year for the truly global MMA promotion.