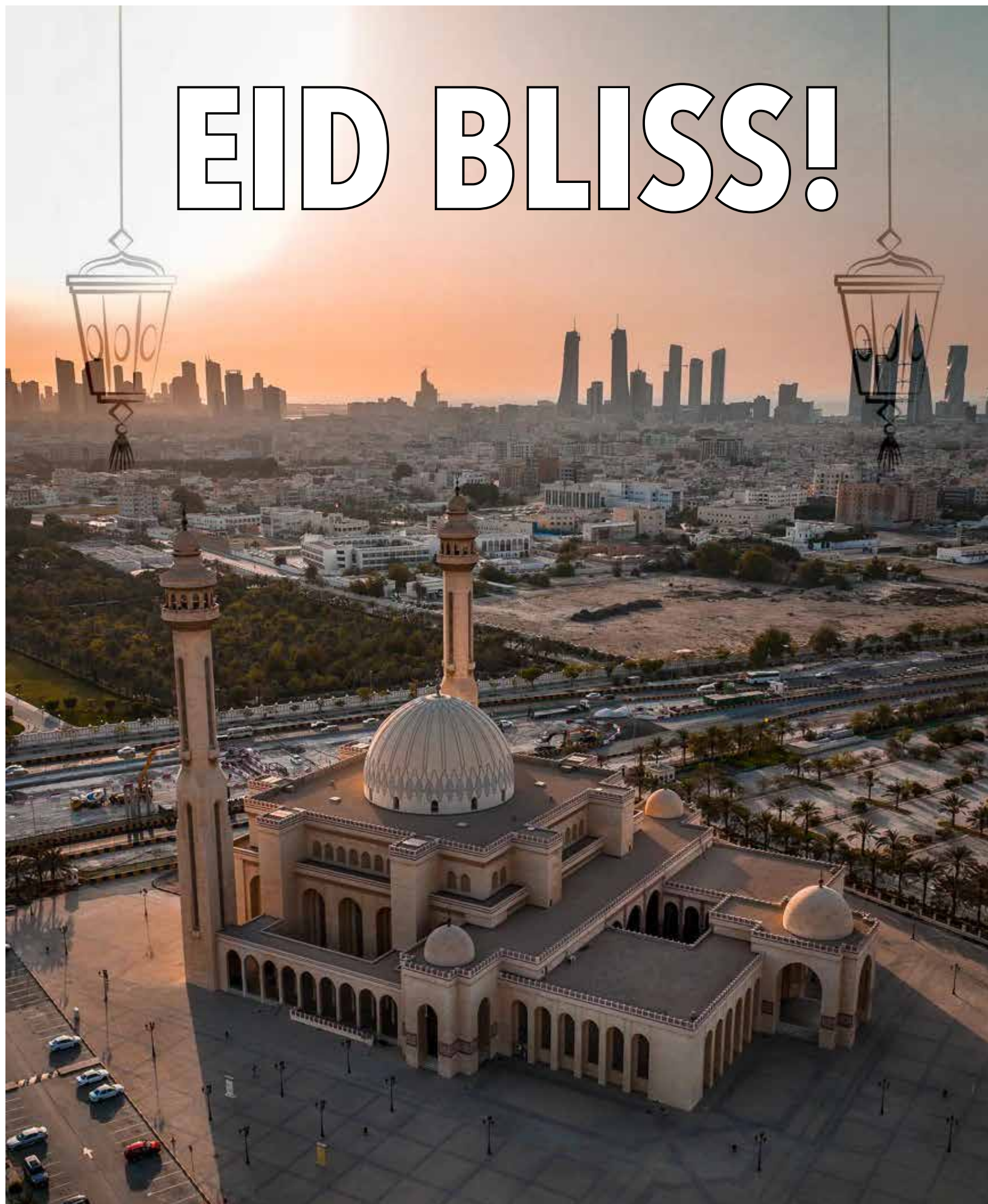


EID BLISS!



COVER STORY

THE SYMPHONY OF FAITH AND FEASTING

Bahrain ushers in Eid-al-Fitr with the joy of togetherness

As the crescent moon graced the skies, Bahrain majestically embraced Eid- al-Fitr. Cannon shots fired twice on Wednesday (April 10) morning announced the close of the holy month—a period of fasting, praying, and reflection—ushering in the joyous celebrations of Eid-al-Fitr. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa led the nation in prayer at the Al-Sakhir Palace Mosque, flanked by esteemed members of the royal family. The air hummed with devotion, and blessings flowed like the tides of the Gulf.

The celebration was more than this—it marked the silver jubilee of His Majesty's reign. Across the capital, Manama, buildings adorned His Majesty's photos, and the logo of HM's accession to the throne. Red and blue lights danced, uniting the kingdom in joy.

It was also a moment of compassion and grace for Bahrain. In a gesture befitting the closure of the Holy Month, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa issued a royal decree pardoning more than 1500 inmates. The spirit of forgiveness echoed through the kingdom, uniting hearts during this joyous Eid-Al-Fitr celebration.

The nation united in prayers

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, accompanied by esteemed members of the royal family and senior

officials, performed Eid Al-Fitr prayers at the Al-Sakhir Palace Mosque in Manama on Wednesday. The prayer symbolised the unity and devotion of the nation during this joyous time. Alongside His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, senior members of the royal family, the Speaker of the Council of Representatives, several ministers, senior officers of the Bahrain Defence Force, the Interior Ministry, and the National Guard, and a number of other attendees.

Sunni Endowments Board chairman, Dr Rashid bin Mohammed bin Fetais Al Hajri, delivered a sermon in which he highlighted the noble values embedded in Eid Al-Fitr. Dr Al Hajri prayed to Allah the Almighty to bless His Majesty with abundant health, happiness, and a long life so as to continue bringing about more achievements for the nation. He also wished Bahrain and its people everlasting security, safety, progress, and prosperity under HM the King's leadership, praying to Allah the Almighty to accept everyone's fasting, night prayers, and good deeds. Following the prayer, His Majesty graciously exchanged warm wishes and blessings with attendees, expressing gratitude for their kind sentiments. He also extended heartfelt congratulations to the people of Bahrain, praying for their continued



prosperity and well-being.

A Gesture of Compassion

Marking the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's accession to the throne, King Hamad issued a royal decree pardoning 1584 inmates who had been convicted for riots and criminal cases. This act of clemency reflects the spirit of forgiveness and goodwill that permeates Eid celebrations. The gesture reflects His Majesty's keenness to maintain the cohesion

and stability of Bahraini society while protecting its social fabric, upholding public interest, safeguarding individual and civil rights, and adhering to the principles of justice, the rule of law, and the preservation of judicial independence. It also aims to strike a balance between retribution and the humanitarian and social circumstances of the convicted inmates. It offers the opportunity for positive re-integration into society, promoting the values of human rights in line with the





Kingdom's approach in this regard. Entities and individuals lauded the royal decree, hailing His Majesty's wise approach, wisdom, tolerance, forgiveness, and humanity, and his keenness on the cohesion and solidity of Bahraini society, dedication to maintaining its social fabric within the framework of upholding the public interest, and providing the opportunity for positive integration into society in a way that upholds human rights values and standards.

Celebrating 25 Years of Reign

Coinciding with Eid were the celebrations of His Majesty the King's silver jubilee year of reign. Bahrain's main landmarks and buildings adorned His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's photos and the logo of HM's accession to the throne. Across the

capital, Manama, buildings lit up in red and blue, marking the kingdom's celebrations of the 25th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne and Eid-al-Fitr. The initiative aims to inform visitors about the ongoing Eid Al-Fitr festivities and the year-long Silver Jubilee celebrations of HM's reign. The decorated buildings included Exhibition World Bahrain in the Southern Governorate and the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay in the Capital Governorate. During Eid-al-Fitr, Bahrain observes a three-day holiday. It's a time for families to come together, share meals, exchange gifts, and express gratitude. The spirit of solidarity and goodwill pervades the nation, reflecting the values of compassion, forgiveness, and unity upheld by His Majesty and cherished by all Bahrainis.

INSIDE BAHRAIN

GREENING BAHRAIN

Bahrain launches innovative Mobile Arboretum initiative to promote afforestation and environmental awareness



Bahrain has launched an ambitious mobile arboretum initiative during the holy month of Ramadan. Under the guidance of the Capital Municipal Council and other municipal bodies, the ministry distributed 4,455 seedlings across 14 carefully selected areas spanning the kingdom's governorates. This visionary project by the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry aims to raise environmental consciousness, strengthen community engagement, and transform Bahrain's

urban landscape through strategic afforestation efforts. The mobile arboretum initiative, a first-of-its-kind endeavour in Bahrain, seeks to empower citizens and residents alike to actively participate in greening their surroundings. **A Tree for Every Heart:** The significance of this initiative extends far beyond the mere planting of trees. Each sapling represents hope, resilience, and a commitment to a sustainable future. As these young trees take root, they promise to:

- **Combat Climate Change:** Trees act as natural carbon sinks, absorbing greenhouse gases and mitigating the effects of climate change. Bahrain's pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060 aligns seamlessly with this noble cause.
- **Enhance Biodiversity:** The mobile arboretum diversifies Bahrain's urban ecosystem, providing shelter and sustenance for local wildlife. From birds to insects, these green havens nurture biodiversity and ecological balance.
- **Improve Air Quality:** As the seedlings mature, they will filter pollutants from the air, ensuring cleaner, fresher breaths for Bahrain's residents. Cleaner air translates to healthier lives.
- **Create Green Oases:** The chosen areas for afforestation include bustling neighbourhoods, public parks, and community spaces. These green oases will offer shade, tranquillity, and a sense of connection to nature. At the helm of this transformative initiative stands the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Ministry Under-Secretary Shaikh Mohammed bin

Ahmed Al Khalifa. His commitment to environmental stewardship and community well-being has catalysed this remarkable endeavour. In an interview with Bahrain News Agency, Shaikh Mohammed emphasised that the mobile arboretum initiative is not merely about planting trees—it's about sowing seeds of awareness, unity, and responsibility. He stated, "Our goal is to nurture a culture where every citizen becomes a custodian of our environment."

A Call to Action
The mobile arboretum initiative blends seamlessly with Bahrain's national afforestation strategy. By strategically planting trees in urban pockets, the kingdom aims to create a resilient green infrastructure that withstands the challenges of urbanisation and climate change. As the sun sets over Bahrain's newly planted saplings, hope blossoms. The mobile arboretum initiative is a testament to Bahrain's commitment to a greener, more sustainable future—one where every citizen plays a vital role in nurturing the earth.

SPOTLIGHT

BRIDGING CULTURES AND EMPOWERING WOMEN

Award-winning concert pianist and multifaceted entrepreneur
Olga Balakleets speaks to *Bahrain This Week*



Bahrain, a land steeped in history and vibrant traditions, has recently welcomed a distinguished visitor - Olga Balakleets, the internationally celebrated concert pianist and visionary entrepreneur. As she stepped onto the sun-kissed shores of the island kingdom, the ancient souks, the modern skyline, and the warm hospitality of the Bahraini people have already captivated Olga. In an exclusive interview with *Bahrain This Week*, Olga shared her excitement about her first visit to Bahrain and her exploration of its rich cultural fabric. But beyond the awe-inspiring landscapes and architectural marvels, Olga's purpose here transcends mere admiration. She envisions Bahrain as a hub for creativity, a place where women's voices can resonate and flourish. "Yes, this is definitely one of the reasons for my stay, which is really to discuss this point and I can't wait to bring Creative Women Forum to

Bahrain," said Olga. Creative Women International Platform, which spans over 50 countries, champions successful female entrepreneurs who infuse creativity into their businesses. The annual conference organised by the platform serves as a catalyst for collaboration, empowerment, and innovation. Olga reflected on her journey as a concert pianist to becoming a female entrepreneur, which led her to establish the Creative Women International Platform in 2016, transcending mere networking. "When I was honoured with recognitions for my entrepreneurial strengths initially, I realised that it was also a recognition for the woman in me," she said. "This set my thoughts on the need for doing something for female entrepreneurs, which was the trigger for the Creative Women International Platform."

As a pianist, Olga has left a significant mark on the world of music and culture. Her journey is a harmonious blend of creativity, leadership, and philanthropy. Olga's musical talents were discovered at a young age, thanks to her mother, a piano teacher. She honed her skills at a music school in southern Russia and later secured a coveted spot at the Special Conservatory School in St. Petersburg.

"My journey was marked by challenges, but my passion for music propelled me forward," said Olga with a smile.

As a soloist, Olga has graced prestigious stages worldwide, collaborating with renowned orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Big Band, and Ensemble Modern. Her performances at international music festivals have garnered critical acclaim, captivating audiences with her virtuosity and emotional depth. Beyond the piano, Olga is a multifaceted entrepreneur. She founded Venus Global Events, an international events company based in London. Under her guidance, Venus Global Events orchestrates cultural and philanthropic projects across the globe. Iconic venues like the Royal Opera House, London Coliseum, and the Royal Albert Hall have hosted these remarkable gatherings, reaching audiences far beyond their physical walls.

"I felt I could polish on my skills in putting together events and taking it beyond networking—yes, it was not easy; there was much to do and a lot of risks involved, especially with the big budget events, but I liked the challenges," she explained. Olga's exemplary services did not

go unnoticed. She has received prestigious accolades, including the St. Prince Dmitry Donskoi and St. Sergey Radonezhsky awards. Her commitment to culture, philanthropy, and creativity continues to inspire and uplift.

Olga also features at international conferences as a speaker, sharing her insights on cultural and philanthropic matters. Her writings find a home in several international publications, contributing to global dialogue. Her visionary spirit extends to *Theatrum Vitae*, a global venture uniting people through performing and visual arts. This initiative aims to dissolve barriers and create a lasting cultural legacy for generations to come.

Beyond the realm of music, she actively contributes to the sports and youth development sectors. Notably, she holds a position on the steering committee of Football for Peace (FfP), an organisation patronised by eminent figures such as Pope Francis, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Albert of Monaco. Additionally, Olga serves on the Board of Directors of Nicosia Young Ballet and leads the International Department of SIFFA, an organisation dedicated to the global advocacy of female football.

Olga continues to inspire and uplift, leaving a mark on the global cultural landscape. Her passion, vision, and dedication serve as a beacon for others to follow, reminding us all that creativity knows no boundaries. Olga is in Bahrain with her son, John Gallant, 21, a music scholar at Clare College at Cambridge University. They are hosted by Kaneka Subberwaal, a Bahrain-based art collector, curator, and businesswoman. Indian Kaneka is the founder of Art Select and Tarakeeb, a collection of Bahrain-inspired clothing, lifestyle items, furniture, and wall art.



ZAYANI MOTORS EXTENDS RAMADAN PROMOTION



Zayani Motors, the leading automotive agency in the Kingdom of Bahrain, announced the extension of its spectacular Ramadan promotion until April 30, 2024. The decision comes in line with Zayani Motors' dedication to providing all customers with the opportunity to win and to enjoy the best promotions during the holy month of Ramadan and the festive season of Eid Al Fitr.

As part of this extended promotion, the value of instant awards has been doubled from BD 50,000 to BD 100,000, reflecting Zayani Motors' unwavering commitment to rewarding both existing

and new clients for their loyalty and trust. Customers can now enjoy even more valuable rewards when they purchase any of the brands under Zayani Motors' umbrella, including Mitsubishi Motors, MG Motor, HONGQI, and Fuso.

Additionally, a raffle draw will be held for a grand prize - the prestigious HONGQI H9, the premium luxury sedan. This exciting addition to the promotion further highlights the exclusivity of privileges that Zayani Motors' customers enjoy. Mr. Rizwan Tariq, General Manager of Zayani Motors, expressed his

excitement about the extended promotion, stating: "We are thrilled to offer our valued clients the opportunity to win even more valuable rewards during this special time of Ramadan. This extension is a testament to our commitment to providing exceptional value and service to all our customers." With the exclusive offers available on iconic brands such as HONGQI, Mitsubishi Motors, MG Motor, and Fuso, customers can drive home a brand-new vehicle while enjoying a range of benefits. The HONGQI HS3, Mitsubishi Outlander, MG Whale, and Fuso trucks are just some of the models included

in the promotion, each offering unique features and benefits, and available for very competitive prices and flexible monthly payment plans. Don't miss out on this opportunity to save big and win valuable rewards with Zayani Motors' extended Ramadan promotion. For more information and to explore the latest models, visit Zayani Motors showroom in Ma'ameer, call 17 703703 or visit www.zmotors.com. Be closer to Zayani Motors and follow us on @zayanimotors on Instagram, Zayani Motors Bahrain on Facebook for the latest news, offers and updates. *Terms and conditions apply.



MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

UN RESOLUTION URGES GLOBAL AI GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By Dr. Jassim Haji

The landmark draft UN resolution highlights the immense potential of safe, secure, and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI) systems to accelerate progress across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental. However, it issues a stark warning that AI systems improperly designed, deployed, or used without adequate safeguards pose serious risks that could undermine sustainable development, widen digital divides, reinforce inequalities, enable discrimination, compromise human rights, and increase threats from accidents or malicious actors.

Key points emphasized:

- For AI's benefits to be fully realized, systems must be human-centric, reliable, transparent, ethical, inclusive, rights-respecting, privacy-preserving and oriented towards sustainable development.
- The breathtaking pace of AI progress demands urgent global consensus on governance of trustworthy AI through inclusive cooperation on interoperable safeguards and standards.
- Significant disparities between developed and developing nations in accessing AI's benefits make narrowing these digital and AI divides an ethical and practical imperative.

Core actions urged for Member States:

- Develop national regulatory and governance frameworks comprehensively addressing AI trustworthiness across its full lifecycle.
- Require robust testing, risk monitoring, data protection, algorithmic audits for bias/discrimination, human oversight, and rights impact assessments.
- Ensure transparency, explainability and redress mechanisms around impactful AI decision-making systems.
- Invest in research, international cooperation, and multi-stakeholder collaboration to advance AI governance balancing innovation and risk prevention.
- Implement targeted programs overcoming gender, accessibility and workforce divides inhibiting equitable access to AI benefits.
- Support data governance enabling trusted cross-border data flows essential for developing AI responsibly.
- Increase public awareness about AI's potential and responsible use.

Demanded of the UN system:

- Enhance coordinated, collaborative system-wide study of AI's impacts and response across agencies and bodies. Report on progress/challenges and provide capacity building assistance to developing countries to access AI's benefits.
- Coordinated agency-wide

assessment, agenda-setting and capacity assistance for developing nations accessing AI benefits responsibly.

- Contribute to reaching global consensus on safe and legal AI frameworks.

Additional actions urged for Member States:

- Foster competitive AI ecosystems and opportunities for small businesses/entrepreneurs to access AI.
- Ensure AI respects intellectual property, cultural diversity, and linguistic diversity.
- Share best practices on data governance and national AI governance frameworks.
- Safeguard privacy and personal data protection throughout the AI lifecycle.
- Call on businesses to align with UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights.

Emphasis on inclusive multi-stakeholder collaboration:

- Form cross-sector partnerships between governments, industry, civil society and academia across the AI lifecycle.
- Develop interoperable technical tools and standards to counter misinformation and manipulation.
- Implement coordinated safeguards assessing and mitigating AI's risks to human rights.
- Increased collaboration is of high importance to achieve fair, open, and

inclusive business practices in AI.

The resolution's key contexts:

- Framed as a moral and practical imperative to bridge the educational, economic, and technological divides inhibiting developing nations from accessing AI's benefits.
- Positioned as input towards a "global digital compact" to be further developed at the 2025 Summit of the Future.
- Emphasizes the need to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries' access to AI technologies.
- Asserts the UN's unique convening ability to build inclusive consensus on aligning transformative AI with sustainable development priorities anchored in UN principles.
- In summary, this visionary resolution represents a holistic call to govern AI as a priority at the national, regional, and global levels through unprecedented multi-stakeholder cooperation. It demands credible accountability, equity, and human rights safeguards to make AI's awesome potential a positive force for achieving sustainable development for all.



PR THIS WEEK

"SOUQ AL BARAHA" HOSTS 50 CHILDREN FROM RHF



In line with its commitment to strengthen collaborations with civil society institutions to elevate social responsibility practices throughout the Kingdom, Souq Al Baraha in Diyar Al Muharraq hosted 50 children under the care of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 accompanied by their families, for a festive Ramadan event. The activities of the Ramadan event included a guided tour of Souq Al Baraha, entertainment activities and various traditional games, in addition to distributing gifts to the orphans. Established in 2001, the RHF serves as a prominent institution in charitable and humanitarian endeavours. Through royal patronage, community partnership, and exceptional performance, it undertakes benevolent works and implements development and humanitarian projects within and beyond the

Kingdom of Bahrain. This event represents one of the noble community initiatives of Souq Al Baraha aimed at supporting critical societal segments, including orphans, and fostering an environment for their active involvement within the social framework. It also serves to enhance their engagement with community activities for a potential future role in sustainable development. On the occasion, Eng. Ahmed Al Ammadi, CEO of Diyar Al Muharraq, stated: "We are delighted to welcome the children of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation to Souq Al Baraha, showcasing our dedication to serving the community through meaningful partnerships with civil society institutions. We will continue to prioritise social responsibility initiatives and further collaborations with the Foundation to address the needs of our orphans and their families."

SEEF PROPERTIES AND GULF HOTEL GROUP TO OPEN CHINA GARDEN IN AL LIWAN



Seef Properties signed an agreement with the Gulf Hotels Group ("GHG") to open a new branch of China Garden restaurant at Al Liwan. The move marks the first expansion of the restaurant outside of its original location at the Gulf Hotel, in line with the Group's strategy to diversify its dining offerings and introduce its homegrown F&B brands to a wider audience. The ceremony was attended by Seef Properties Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Yusuf, GHG Group Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Janahi, and representatives from both parties. China Garden first opened its doors in The Gulf Hotel in 1996, offering a range of authentic Chinese dishes. The newly opened concept integrates the same flavors with a contemporary design, lively environment, and unique energetic vibe. Seef Properties CEO, Ahmed

Yusuf said: "Choosing Al Liwan as the location for China Garden its appeal and strategic viability. Seef Properties has long been a trusted partner capable of attracting reputable tenants, and the decision to open this restaurant is in line with our commitment to enhancing Bahrain's retail offerings. We're pleased to support China Garden's expansion and provide more quality dining choices in the Kingdom." GHG Group Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Janahi said: "We are delighted to bring the flavors of China to Al Liwan. This new addition showcases our commitment to diversifying our F&B offerings and expanding into different segments of the market. This outlet is the first of many exciting and innovative dining concepts the Group is planning to introduce and enhance the local gastronomic scene."

BAHRAIN TO HOST FOURTH ROUND OF 2025 F1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



Formula 1 announced its 2025 season calendar, with Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", hosting the fourth of 24 rounds in next year's FIA Formula 1 World Championship. The F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2025 is scheduled to take place from 11 to 13 April in Sakhir. It will be a part of the F1 world championship's landmark 75th anniversary. With the Kingdom hosting the fourth round of the new campaign, racing will begin in Melbourne with the Australian Grand Prix from 14 to 16 March. Shanghai in China will then host round

two from 21 to 23 March, and then Suzuka in Japan will be the third stop from 4 to 6 April prior to coming to Sakhir. Following Bahrain's race, the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix will be held in Jeddah a week later from 18 to 20 April. The season then continues all throughout the year until the 2025 finale in Abu Dhabi from 5 to 7 December. Fans interested in attending next year's F1 extravaganza can pre-register for ticket access at BIC's official website, bahraingp.com, to be the first to learn about exciting ticket offers for the 2025 grand prix.

ROTARY CLUBS AND NAKHEEL CENTRE COLLABORATE FOR EID CELEBRATION



The Rotary Clubs of Bahrain, including Manama, Salmaniya, Seef Bahrain, Rotaract Clubs of Bahrain, and Muharraq, came together to host the Eid Celebration titled Smile of Hope in a collaboration with Nakheel Centre and MC Ali Yaseen on April 12th. The event featured a vibrant show led by Ali Yaseen, enthralling performances by a local band, and an engaging quiz competition with exciting prizes, bringing joy to families of diverse backgrounds. Rotarians worked hand in hand to ensure the success of the event, actively participating in crowd management, the distribution of gifts, and fostering audience engagement throughout the celebration. Attendees were treated to traditional local coffee and sweets, adding a touch of Bahraini hospitality to the festive atmosphere.

In line with Rotary's core values of Diversity & Inclusion, members from prominent organisations such as the Bahrain Deaf Society, Dreams Society, Bahrain Down Syndrome Society, and Al Rahma Centre were extended special invitations to join the festivities, underscoring the spirit of unity and community support that the Rotary clubs embody. The Smile of Hope Eid Celebration served as a testament to the Rotary Clubs of Bahrain's commitment to fostering inclusivity, spreading joy, and creating memorable experiences for all members of the community. With the support of Nakheel Centre and the enthusiastic participation of MC Ali Yaseen, the event truly encapsulated the essence of unity and togetherness, bringing smiles to faces and warmth to hearts on this special occasion.

THE JALABIYA TALES

Bahraini women sharing stories of their tradition



As the crescent moon heralded the arrival of Eid al-Fitr, Bahrainis anticipated the joyous festivities marking the end of Ramadan. Amidst the continuing celebrations, one tradition stands out as a symbol of cultural heritage and elegance: the jalabiya. Worn with pride and adorned with intricate embroidery, the jalabiya holds a special place in the hearts of Bahraini women, serving as a canvas for their personal stories and cherished memories. In Bahraini culture, the jalabiya is more than just a garment; it is a reflection of tradition, identity, and heritage.

Passed down through generations, each jalabiya carries with it a unique tale, weaving together threads of family history and cultural significance. For women in Bahrain, the jalabiya holds a special allure during the Ramadan season, where gatherings such as gahbgas and iftars provide the perfect opportunity to showcase their finest attire. In this Eid special feature, *Bahrain This Week* reached out into the world of jalabiya tales, as Bahraini women graciously shared their personal anecdotes and reflections on this timeless tradition.



The intricately designed with beautiful embroidered jalabiyas are, beyond a fashion statement, represent Bahraini craftsmanship, said General Surgery, Laparoscopic and Breast Surgery expert Dr Kameela Almajed. "The traditional Jalabiyah holds a special place in Bahraini culture, particularly among women," said the medic at King Hamad University Hospital. "This elegant garment reflects the rich heritage and unique identity of Bahrain, often worn during special occasions and gatherings. The jalabiyah is intricately designed with beautifully embroidery, vibrant colours, and luxurious fabrics, showcasing the craftsmanship and attention to detail that is characteristic of Bahraini fashion. It exudes grace and sophistication, embodying the cultural values and traditions of the country. For Bahraini girls and women, wearing the jalabiyah is not just a fashion statement, but a way to honour their heritage and celebrate their roots with pride and elegance."



Dr Kameela on her graduation ceremony from medical university and giving a speech as the first Bahraini girl graduate. She's wearing a very dear Bahraini traditional outfit that belongs to her mother.



For Hana Al Saffar, jalabiyas add to the charm and piety of the holy month and ensuing festivities. "The jalabiya embodies elegance and grace, making it the perfect attire for Ramadan gatherings," said the former Labour Market Regulatory Authority official. "It's a celebration of femininity and tradition, allowing us to honour our heritage with pride. I love the way we bring out our jalabiyas during Ramadan—it is more an emotion or pride and joy than just a piece of dress. Yes, I do have some treasured jalabiyas from my mother."



Modern and fashionable Ayisha Ebrahim reflected that jalabiyas are her "top choice" for events and occasions. "Despite considering myself fashionable and modern, I have a several Jalabiyas that I really treasure and prefer wearing them for occasions like Ramadan and Henna parties," said the Bahrain Chamber senior media specialist. "I believe that the traditional Jalabiya is unique in design and colors, and remain my top choice for such events."



National Communications Centre official Dr Lulwa Budalamah also echoed the view of jalabiya symbolising the Bahraini identity. "The jalabiya which is a women's dress embroidered with golden threads is called the "Thob Alnashil," she cited. "I am very happy because I see girls of different ages wearing jalabiyas on various occasions. I have jalabiyas that I treasure and are close to my heart, and one which I received as a gift from a member of the royal family. I do not have a daughter, but I will gift it to my daughter-in-law or granddaughter in the future, inshallah."



"I think for most of us (women), our jalabiya collection is a testament to Bahrain's rich culture and tradition," said Bahrain Businesswomen Society president Ahlam Janahi. "Each piece tells a story of craftsmanship and creativity, reflecting the diversity and beauty of our society. Some of them are very old, and I do have some treasured pieces like that, some with rich embroidery done by Indian artisans."

As Bahrain celebrates, its people cherish the traditions that unite them and honour the legacy of their ancestors. The jalabiya serves as a timeless reminder of the nation's shared heritage, bridging the past with the present and inspiring future generations to embrace their cultural identity with

pride. In the fabric of Bahraini culture, the jalabiya remains a vibrant thread, woven with love, memories, and the enduring spirit of tradition. Yes, the stories of lovely jalabiyas continue to enrich lives and serve as a testament to the beauty of the kingdom's cultural heritage. Eid Mubarak!

EGOVERNMENT

TRAVELING TO SAUDI ARABIA DURING EID HOLIDAYS? INSURE YOUR CAR EASILY ONLINE!



Travel via King Fahd Causeway is expected to spike with the approach of the Eid Al-Fitr holidays. Motor insurance is mandatory for any car entering Saudi, ensuring stress-free journeys when traveling by road. Fortunately, the procedures are easier than ever with the eTraffic app. Developed by the Information & eGovernment Authority (iGA), the insurance service offers a simplified process in collaboration with United Insurance Company. The service enables citizens and residents of Bahrain to easily issue insurance policies for their trips to Saudi Arabia. For organizations with registered vehicles, the app provides the option to select the "Commercial" owner type and enter the company's Commercial Registration (CR) number, while individuals can select the "Private" owner type. After registering and paying online, users will receive their insurance policies conveniently

via email.

The service also extends its benefits to visitors from Saudi Arabia, allowing them to insure their vehicles in Bahrain. Furthermore, the app provides a diverse range of other services, such as vehicle authorization and verification, and the ability to review registration certificates and driving licenses, among others.

The iGA continues to streamline processes through the effective use of digital platforms, resulting in time savings and increased convenience for citizens, residents, and visitors alike.

For inquiries, visit the National Suggestions & Complaints System (Tawasul) available via Bahrain.bh/Tawasul or download Tawasul app from the eGovernment Apps Store Bahrain.bh/apps. To receive updates on the latest news and developments, follow the iGA's social media channels @iGAbahrain.

bahrain.bh

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INSIDE ARABIA

RIYADH TO HOST 2024 SAUDI WATER FORUM



Riyadh will host the Saudi Water Forum from April 29 to May 1 under the patronage of the Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Abdulrahman Abdulmohsen Al-Fadley.

Water security and sustainability are two of the most important concerns being examined and discussed internationally, and are major challenges facing Saudi Arabia, given the region's scarcity of water resources and continuous

population growth.

Increasing and accelerating demands for water place great strain on Gulf states, driven by economic growth and the improvement of quality of life. The SWF posted on X: "Sustainability of water resources is among the fundamental issues that concern countries ... How can it be enhanced in Saudi Arabia!!? Join us to explore the proposed solutions and learn about the prominent local and regional experiences contributing to enhancing the sustainability of water resources within the #SaudiWaterForum program from April 29th to May 1st, 2024, at Hilton Riyadh."

The Ministry Environment Water and Agriculture plans to organize the SWF as one of the most important events at local, regional, and international levels, to create a meeting platform between industry leaders, experts, and key stakeholders.

The forum endeavors to gather developers, investors, scientists, and researchers in the field with the relevant official entities, represented by the MEWA, Saline Water Conversion Corp., National Water Co., Saudi Water Partnership Co., the Saudi Irrigation Organization, Water

Transmission and Technologies Co., the Water Regulator, and the National Water Efficiency and Conservation Center to present strategies on achieving solutions to challenges facing the sector.

The SWF will showcase the best practices and successful experiences in developing water projects that align with the needs of the Kingdom and contribute to confronting the challenges.

Saudi Arabia, one of the world's driest countries and the world's third largest per capita consumer of water after the US and Canada, announced a national program for rationalizing water consumption in the Kingdom at the SWF in 2019, setting ambitious targets that include slashing usage by nearly 24 percent by 2020 and around 43 percent by 2030. Speaking at the SWF in 2019, Al-Fadley, officially launched the Qatrah (Arabic for 'droplet') program, aimed at reducing water consumption as part of the MEWA's efforts to attain water sustainability.

Through the program, the MEWA aims to reduce daily per capita consumption from 263 liters to 200 liters by 2020 and to 150 liters by 2030.