

Al Najma through to semis
 Bahrain champions punch tickets to final four in 25th Asian Men's Club League Championship in Isfahan | P16

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Warning as fake websites sell concerts tickets

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The Anti-Cyber Crimes Directorate of the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security has warned of fake websites on social media selling tickets for concerts to get bank details and money from their victims.

Citizens and residents were urged not to respond to these websites and use official channels for e-purchases.

Bahrain vows to boost Saudi ties

HRH Prince Salman: Let's strengthen ongoing investments cooperation in tourism projects

Iran's embassy reopens in Riyadh

Riyadh

Iran's embassy in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh has reopened.

Both countries agreed to end a diplomatic rift under a China-mediated deal in March.

"We consider today an important day in the relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alireza Bigdeli told a flag-raising ceremony.

US sanctions

Washington

The US Treasury Department yesterday sanctioned a network of individuals and companies in Iran, China and Hong Kong for their support to Iran's ballistic missile program.

Seven individuals and six entities were designated for their illicit work, and the Treasury Department also sanctioned Iran's defense attaché in Beijing for coordinating military-related procurements from China for Iranian end-users.

● **HM King and King Salman keen to bolster bilateral relations**

● **Part of efforts to develop priority economic sectors of both Kingdoms**

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His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the importance of continuing to strengthen cooperation between the Kingdom of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

HRH Prince Salman said it is aimed at achieving the joint aspirations of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

His Royal Highness was speaking as he met yesterday with the Minister of Tourism



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister meets with the Saudi Tourism Minister

of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Saudi Fund for Development, HE Ahmed bin Aqeel Al Khateeb, at Gudaibiya Palace.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister emphasised that a shared value of unity underpins the longstanding relation-

ship and collective aspirations of both countries.

He commended HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, for his continued efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two Kingdoms, which are

bolstered by the Saudi-Bahraini Coordination Council framework.

HRH Prince Salman noted that cooperation efforts support the development of priority economic sectors and that the two Kingdoms' ongoing investments in tourism projects are designed to achieve common goals.

“A shared value of unity underpins the longstanding relationship and collective aspirations of both countries.”

- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA, THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRIME MINISTER

Al Khateeb expressed his gratitude to His Royal Highness for his commitment to fostering bilateral relations and wished Bahrain further progress and prosperity.

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Minister of Finance and National Economy, HE Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, HE Hamad bin Faisal Al Malki, and the Minister of Tourism, HE Fatima bint Jaffer Al Sairafi, also attended the meeting.

Fiscal reform on track

State budget to sustain robust economic growth target

TDT | Manama

The government has concluded its state budget for the period 2023-2024, putting fiscal responsibility and economic growth at the heart of its medium-term plans.

Set against the backdrop of strong economic growth of 4.9

per cent in 2022, and a reduction in the overall fiscal deficit of 47

per cent, the budget sets out a range of new growth and non-oil revenue raising measures to drive sustainable development in the Kingdom, ensure public finances remain on a stable footing, and enhance the quality of life for Bahraini citizens to

ensure prosperity is accessible to all.

New budget measures include

over 50 new fully funded infrastructure projects worth over BD1.5 billion over the next two years, increases to living allowance for public sector workers and pensioners, as well as spending efficiency initiatives

as part of the government's multi-year Fiscal Balance Program.

The government's fiscal reform targets as part of the Fiscal Balance Program remain on track, with budget forecasts assuming a conservative estimate of \$60 per barrel.

Together with past efforts to consolidate government spend-

ing, the reforms announced in this budget will lead to a budget deficit of less than 1 per cent of GDP in 2024.

The 2023-2024 state budget demonstrates a firm commitment to building a sustainable and inclusive future for Bahrain that unlocks the nation's full potential.

220 fils (includes VAT)



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