

Launch preparations in full swing: BAC CEO

- Trials on going at new facility
- Advanced trials will see public volunteers playing the role of passengers
- On track for first quarter 2020 launch

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All airlines operating out of Bahrain International Airport (BIA) are expected to be fully prepared and ready for the launch of the new Passenger Terminal Building in



Officials during the meeting of senior airline representatives

the first quarter of 2020, said Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah BAC CEO. He said the ongoing trials at the new facility are part of the national Operations Readiness and

Airport Transfer (ORAT) programme.

"These are designed to progressively test the new facility's functions, systems, and procedures to ensure they are ready for the transition phase."

The Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) Chief Executive Officer was holding a meeting of senior airline representatives.

Al Binfalah highlighted the importance of the trials, saying: "The new Passenger Terminal Building's advanced systems, equipment and communications technologies require considerable training and familiarity to operate."

"All stakeholders must have an in-depth understanding of how these systems work in an inte-

grated operational environment.

"The trials will assist all the participating stakeholders to be adequately trained and ensure that BIA continues to operate in line with global aviation standards."

He also called on to greater effort as there are just a few months to until the inauguration of the new terminal.

The ORAT process is split into three phases, pre-trials, basic trials, and advanced trials. The advanced trials will see public volunteers playing the role of passengers to put the new terminal's advanced systems, processes, and procedures put to the test and helping to identify any areas for improvement ahead of its inauguration.

Busy cruise season ahead

Bahrain expects to receive 100,000 cruise ship visitors this season

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Bahrain is expecting this cruise season to be extremely busy with the authority here anticipating around 100,000 cruise ship visitors.

Nader Khalil Al Moayyed, Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) Chief Executive Officer, said this as the Kingdom yesterday received more than 7,000 passengers who arrived on board MSC Bellissima and AIDAprima.

Representatives of the BTEA welcomed travellers with sweets and Arabic coffee, giving them a glimpse into the rich history of Bahrain and the hospitality of its people.

Visitors also had the opportunity to take photos with a falcon or have their hands decorated with traditional henna designs.

BTEA said it is working closely with a group of governmental entities and tour operators to enhance the visitor experience and ensure a smooth journey to the Kingdom.

During their stay, visitors were introduced to famous tourist destinations in the Kingdom,



More than 7,000 passengers arrived in Bahrain on board MSC Bellissima and AIDAprima

including the Royal Camel Farm, Manama Souq, Al Fateh Grand Mosque, Bahrain International Circuit, Bahrain Fort, Bahrain National Museum, Bu Maher Fort, Shaikh Ebrahim Center and the Old Houses of Muharraq.

"The BTEA's strategy focuses on four main pillars including Awareness, Attraction, Access and Accommodation, in addition to developing the Kingdom's ports and marine facilities to attract more incoming tourist ships in the region and increase

the number visitors coming into the Kingdom," Al Moayyed said.

He said the authority is aiming to double the contribution of the tourism sector in the national economy in line with the Economic Vision 2030 that seeks to increase the Gross Domestic



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NADER KHALIL AL MOAYYED, BTEA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Product (GDP) of the non-oil sectors.

"Thanks to the ongoing growth of Bahrain as a destination for cruise ships, we look forward to receiving more in the coming months within the tourist season that continues during October and April.

"We expect that the number of trips this season will amount to 61 trips that include approximately 100,000 visitors," added Al Moayyed.

ICB Talent Fest 2019 concludes today



Namita Pramod, Boban Samuel

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The Indian Club Bahrain has announced the completion of its children's cultural festival, the ICB Talent Fest 2019, with the participation of 1288 children in six categories.

The Fest will draw to a close with the Grand Finale at 7 pm today at the Indian Club premises.

Competition in literature, Music, Dance, Art, Other events and Group were open to all members of the Indian community aged between 5 and 18 years.

Chief Guest for the event is cine artist Namitha Pramod, and the evening will see all participants receive trophies and certificates. The Guest of Honour is Indian moviemaker, Boban Samuel.

Shauryaa Sreejit emerged as the ICB Talent Prince and Sneha Muralidharan as ICB Talent Princess. The Group Champions for Groups I through V are Hima Ajithkumar, Shreya Muralidharan, Shreya Gopakumar, Ascharya K. Ramesh and Anagha S. Lal, respectively.

Anagha S. Lal won the title of ICB Dancing Jewel and Athulkrishna Gopakumar won the title of ICB Musical Gem.

Shilpa Santhosh was declared as the ICB Artistic Pearl and Sreehamsini Balamurugan as the Literary Diamond for 2019.

The Artistic Special Award went to Mia Mariam Alex. Rithvika Sreenath received the Group Three Special Award, and Advait Anilkumar received the ICB Talent Fest Special Award.

Secretary of the Indian Club, Job Joseph and convener of the Fest, Jose Francis, thanked all the participants for their performances.



The MSC Bellissima, a 170,000-tonne ship, owned by Swiss cruise line MSC Cruises, is a 316 metres long vessel. It is one of the largest cruise ships in the world with its current home-port being UAE.



AIDA Prima, which can carry 4,250 passengers and crew, is a German cruise liner. AIDAprima has 18 passenger decks, 15 dining options, indoor and outdoor pools, as well as shops, cafes, and bars.



Gulf Air achieves 100pc Bahrainisation for second officer pilots

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Gulf Air, yesterday announced it has achieved 100 per cent Bahrainisation for its second officer pilots as it continues to employ Bahrainis as cadet pilots to gradually grow in their career development. Recently, the airline welcomed a new batch of six pilots and congratulated them on their career start with Gulf Air.

The chief executive officer of the airline Kresimir Kucko and deputy chief executive of-



ficer Captain Waleed Al Alawi, as well as members of the executive management, celebrated the new pilots during an event that took place at the airline's headquarter in Muharraq.

Gulf Air has achieved total Bahrainisation for its second officers as well as male cabin crew. Moreover, 96 per cent of the airline's first officers are Bahrainis to achieve 100pc Bahrainisation for all its captains by 2030.

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