

## GCC chambers coordination meeting today

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Chairmen of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) chambers are to commence their coordination meeting today in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

It comes in preparation for the consultative meeting between GCC ministers of commerce and chairmen of GCC chambers scheduled for tomorrow.

The coordination meeting aims at consolidating the visions of the GCC chambers in preparation to raising them to the ministers of commerce.

It will discuss concurrent matters such as GCC strategy for food security, E-commerce and digital services, GCC customs procedures, franchise law, among other topics.

Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) Chairman Sameer Nass, head of the Federation of GCC Chambers, expressed pride in the deep-rooted tie between the GCC member states and the keenness of the leaders to enhance economic gains.

# A big shot in the arm for Bahrain

Nationwide vaccination campaign's 'multiple successes' rewarded internationally

● **Testament to royal leadership's successful policy in confronting pandemic**

● **People understand getting shot not whimsical decision, but 'patriotic act'**

● **Vaccination has become best way towards resuming normal life in Kingdom**

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The healthy doses of international news about Bahrain this month regarding its COVID-19 status is a remarkable testament to the Kingdom's efficacy in confronting the pandemic.

Ten days ago, the Nikkei's COVID-19 Recovery Index for September ranked Bahrain as the world's second-best country in terms of COVID recovery

by calculating a score between 0 and 90 based on nine factors divided into three categories – infection management, vaccine rollouts, and mobility. Bahrain scored 72%, only one point behind leader Malta.

On October 8, the Council of the European Union recommended that Bahrain should be added to the list of countries for which travel restrictions should be lifted.

The recommendation by the Council was another testament to Bahrain's successful policy in confronting the pandemic.

On October 9, the German Ambassador to Bahrain Kai Boeckmann announced that "in view of the low numbers of infections in Bahrain, starting from 10 October 2021, 00.00 h, Germany will allow travellers from Bahrain who hold a valid visa to enter Germany for all normally permitted purposes, including tourism, and regardless of their vaccination status."

On October 14, Indonesia said that vaccinated tourists from Bahrain and 18 other countries can now travel to Bali and Riau Islands. Some of Indonesia's closest



Bahrain's vaccination campaign is in full swing

neighbours were not on the list.

On October 15, Sweden said that it had amended its entry ban to exempt residents of Bahrain and the UAE. The Swedish government said that the amendment would enter into force on October 19.

Bahrain's multiple successes are attributed to the deep commitment of the leadership and people since the early days to facing a looming and ominous enemy with the sense that everyone should play their part in protecting and serving the nation.

The mission has been anchored in deep trust and full

confidence in the wisdom and sagacity of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa as the perfect leader to guide the nation through the extraordinary circumstances and unprecedented challenges and in the capabilities and aptitudes of Team Bahrain, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The ad-hoc multi-ministry national taskforce and the medical taskforce set up to deal with the spread and fallout of COVID-19 based their assessments and decisions on reliable data and genuine science while not allowing

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risky bias to enter the process. And while officials and experts were engaged in a survival fight against the pandemic, a media component dealt with the threats of misinformation and disinformation that were taking advantage of the local and international addiction to digital platforms to undermine the state efforts.



## Learn creative clay-shaping skills in workshop



Various handicraft training workshops

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A four-day clay-shaping workshop will be held starting today as part of Al Jasra Crafts Centre's Crafts and Creative Industries Programme.

It will continue tomorrow and on October 21 and 31 for participants keen on learning more about pottery, a major characteristic of Bahrain in the past.

This month, Al Jasra Crafts Centre is offering a series of workshops and craft training,

ranging from handicraft to creative industries.

The activities are open to all, and those interested in crafts and manual artwork can register sign up via the website of the Culture Authority [www.culture.gov.bh](http://www.culture.gov.bh)

The centre, through the Crafts and Creative Industries Programme, has held its first workshop on the Japanese art of "amigurumi".

It also hosted a workshop on a candle making in cooperation with the Bahrain Creative Youth

Foundation, a hand-printing workshop, in which the participants learned about artistic ways for colourful drawing and a "Mirrors Mosaic workshop in cooperation with Meraki Art, where the participants learned how to decorate surfaces using glass and ceramics.

The programme features a clay-shaping workshop starting today. It will also be held tomorrow and on October 21 and 31 for participants keen on learning more about pottery, a major char-

acteristic of Bahrain in the past.

A silversmithing workshop for beginners will be held on October 24-28 to acquire the skill of design in jewellery and ornaments.

The centre will also host a mosaic tiered shelves workshop on October 26-27 in cooperation with Meraki Art.

Participants will gain insights into the art of surface decoration by arranging small-sized pieces of stones, glass and ceramics.

## Bahrain set to host 7th GCC health ministers meeting

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Bahrain is hosting the 7th meeting of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries' health ministers and the 84th GCC Health Ministers General Conference on Thursday preceded by a preparation meeting for health ministries' undersecretaries on Wednesday.

Health Minister Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh said that the meeting would be an extension of what has been achieved dur-

ing the previous health meetings in a way that meets GCC countries' aspiration in human and health development.

It will review GCC countries' efforts in confronting the coronavirus pandemic and discuss cooperation related to the pandemic repercussions and vaccines and prevention methods.

Along with many common health issues, recommendations, and decisions to be made to improve health services provided to citizens and residents in the GCC countries.

## Webinar series on franchise investment opportunities for Filipino expatriates

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An online discussion will explore franchise investment opportunities for Filipinos during this time of pandemic.

The event, the third episode of the #TrabahoNegosyoKubuhayan webinar series on October 22, will discuss franchising, its business sense during a pandemic, and how much it will take to put up a business and the time to expect a return

on investment (ROI).

Together with the Philippine Franchise Association, the organisers will help Filipinos invest in business, as well as brief them on goals and risk appetite.

Joining the event are several brands including Potato Corner, Phoenix Petroleum, Happy Haus Donuts, Livingwater, Island Tea Co., and Easy Day Shop.

To register, please fill out bit.ly/TNKFranchise.

## PINAY Ikaw Na! bowling tournament for charity a big success

PINAY Ikaw Na!, a group of charitable Filipina ladies under the Filipino Club Bahrain, held last Friday, 15th October, a charity event called "1st PINAY Pink Open Bowling Tournament" commemorating Cancer Awareness Month. All proceeds of the event were allocated to seven Filipino cancer patients. Right, PINAY Officers with Philippines Embassy Charge d'Affaire Consul General Maria Paz Cortes, second from right, and Filipino Club President Ric Advincula, sixth from left.

