

## Christmas Tree Lighting event at LuLu Hypermarket



Shaikh Khalifa with Mr Martin, Mr Siberell and Mr Rupawala and other guests at the event.

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More than 800 guests joined a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at the LuLu Hypermarket's latest store in Saar's Atrium Mall on December 15.

The festivities were attended by Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of HRH the Crown Prince's Court Simon

Martin, the British Ambassador and Justin Siberell, the US ambassador and Juzer Rupawala, the Director of the LuLu Group. The evening also included carol singing and a Santa procession.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, there was a Christmas Tree decorating competition which was a big hit among the youngsters.



The singing of carols added special charm to the event.

## Bahrain vows to join efforts against climate change

Katowice

The Kingdom of Bahrain, represented by the Supreme Council for Environment, participated in the high profile ministerial meeting for the UN framework agreement on climate change (COP24) which is being held in Katowice, Poland.

Bahrain's delegation was headed by Chief Executive of the Supreme Council for Environment Dr Mohammed Mubarak bin Dainah who gave a speech in which he asserted the need for concerted efforts to curb climate change.

He pointed out that Bahrain is one of the countries that are affected by climate change. Therefore, he noted, the kingdom has exerted tremendous efforts at the local and international level to handle climate change and reduce its negative impact.

Dr Dainah presented the audience with a comprehensive overview on the situation in Bahrain in light of climate change from which many island countries are suffering.

He also discussed procedures of implementing the Paris Agreement and other vital issues related to funding projects in developing countries.

# A net-savvy populace

98pc of the Kingdom's population use Internet, reveals UNCTAD findings

The index also revealed the top countries for online shopping in which The Netherlands came first.

Compared to the 2017 index, Singapore has swapped ranks with the Republic of Korea as the top-ranked country in the list.

TDI | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

Close to 98 per cent of the population in the Kingdom use Internet, according to a report published by the United Nations organisation.

Almost everyone in the Kingdom has Internet access, says the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) Business-to-Consumer (B2C) E-commerce Index 2018.

Bahrain is one of the highest ranked countries in the index in terms of Internet access. Along with Bahrain, Iceland and Nor-

Iceland, ranked sixth, has near ubiquitous Internet access with 98pc of the population online, the highest in the world along with Bahrain and Norway.

THE REPORT



Among the developing economies in MENA region, Bahrain has only made it to the top ten list.

way are the two other countries with the highest Internet access.

However, Bahrain is ranked 62 in the index overall. In the Mena region, the Kingdom was ranked five in the index.

"Iceland, ranked sixth, has near ubiquitous Internet access with 98pc of the population online,

the highest in the world along with Bahrain and Norway," the report stated.

The index also revealed the top countries for online shopping. The Netherlands came on top of the report as the best country in the world for online commerce.

Europe has eight of the top ten countries in the index. Among the developing economies in MENA region, Bahrain has only made it to the top ten list.

Only one of the top ten developing countries in the B2C E-commerce Index 2018 are from East Asia or the Middle East.

Unlike the global top ten, the range of index values between developing countries is wide with a 26-point difference between first and tenth.

Compared to the 2017 index, Singapore has swapped ranks with the Republic of Korea as the top-ranked country in the list.

Mauritius and Trinidad and Tobago have dropped out while Chile (the only non-Asian country in the list) and Turkey have entered.

Hong Kong (China) ranks second among developing economies and 15th in the world.

Like Singapore, it is a small economy with relatively high values on all indicators.

10 leading countries in the list are from Europe.

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**Date : Thursday 20th December 2018, Time : 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm**  
**Friday 21st December 2018, Time : 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm**

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