

Al Balooshi powers Bahrain1 to victory

Bahrain1 Racing were amongst the victorious teams over the weekend as Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosted an exciting third round in the 2019/2020 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship in Sakhir. **P16**

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Protesters hit Beirut streets
 Beirut

Lebanese protesters took to the streets again on Sunday after unprecedented overnight violence in Beirut in which nearly 400 people were injured. Security forces fired water cannon at young men hurling stones outside parliament. Protesters chanting "Revolution" tried to climb over barbed wire and fencing to storm the building. Security forces urged people to remain calm, or they would be forced back. "We're not scared. This is all for our future and our children," said protester Bassam Taleb.

Cyprus blasts 'pirate state'
 Nicosia

Cyprus yesterday denounced Turkey as a "pirate state" that flouts international law as Turkey's bid to drill for natural gas in waters where Cyprus has economic rights rekindled tensions over energy reserves in the eastern Mediterranean.



02 Monitoring system launched to tackle municipal violations

03 Women constitute '40 per cent' of nation's private sector workforce

04 Social workers help expatriate 'tortured by employer' fly home

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'Stay out of Libya'

Libya Berlin summit ends in pledge to enforce weapons embargo



World leaders at the high-level summit in Berlin.

● A high-level summit in Berlin aimed at ending Libya's bitter civil war has concluded with a pledge to end the flow of weapons into the North African nation.

Berlin

World leaders were ready yesterday to pledge an end to all foreign involvement in the conflict in Libya after a UN-sponsored peace summit in Berlin.

The UN wants foreign powers who wield influence in the region to stop supplying weapons, troops or finance — either to the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli or the

France has acute concerns over the arrival of Syrian and foreign fighters in the city of Tripoli.

MACRON

rival Libya National Army (LNA) led by eastern military strongman Khalifa Haftar.

All sides will be asked to sign up to a plan to refrain from interference, and commit to a truce that leads to a lasting end to hostilities.

A draft communique from the summit also urges all parties to re-commit to a widely ignored UN arms embargo and raises the prospect of Libyan political talks in Geneva at the end of the month.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan has sent military trainers and advisers to help the beleaguered forces of GNA leader Fayez Al Sarraj, and has also redeployed up to 2,000 Turkish-backed mercenary fighters from the conflict in Syria.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he had "acute concerns over the arrival of Syrian and foreign fighters in the city of Tripoli," and added: "That must end."

Clashes since April have killed more than 280 civilians and 2,000 fighters and displaced tens of thousands, until a fragile ceasefire backed by Russia and Turkey was put in place on Jan. 12.

Nevertheless, GNA forces accused Haftar's militia of opening fire on them in southern Tripoli on Sunday, and Al Sarraj asked for international "protection troops" if Haftar kept up his offensive.

Liquidity Support Fund: 176 applications received

● The application window for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with an annual income below BD three million, remains open until 19 March 2020.



TDT | Manama

As many as 176 applications have been submitted by larger enterprises within the Kingdom to benefit from credit facilities provided by the Liquidity Support Fund.

The applications will be reviewed and processed to ensure all eligibility conditions and credit evaluations are fully met before each application proceeds further.

The banks associated with the Liquidity Support Fund will also analyse each company's need for these credit facilities in order to pay off short term obligations and ensure its financial stability.

Credit application requests for larger enterprises are capped at BD one million and BD 250,000 for SMEs, with a loan period of 2.5 per cent interest rate for up to three years.

In order to qualify, the applicant Large Enterprises are required to have an annual income of BD three million or above, hold an active commercial registration and have been actively operating within the Kingdom for the past five years.

Additionally, applicants must have majority Bahraini ownership and be able to retain audited financial statements for the previous four fiscal years, including the fiscal year 2018, possess positive solvency resolution and a positive

gross profit margin for any three years within the five year period.

If these criteria are met, a bank cooperating with the Fund will financially support the rewarded company. The banks co-operating with the Liquidity Support Fund are: National Bank of Bahrain, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and Bahrain Islamic Bank.

The application window for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with an annual income below BD three million, remains open until 19 March 2020.

Applications for SMEs can be submitted to the Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) at the following branches: Sitra Mall, Riyadh Center, Diplomatic Area and Hidd Industrial area.

Applicants do not need to have an account with the BDB bank in order to apply or qualify.

For SMEs to qualify, they must meet certain application criteria, including: holding an active commercial registration; maintaining a minimum of 51 per cent Bahraini ownership; commercial activities operating in Bahrain; no requests for reorganisation or liquidation according to the Kingdom's bankruptcy law; financial statements available for the fiscal year 2018; and a positive gross profit margin for one of the past three years.

NEW LOCATION

Efforts to move iconic pottery monument begin

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First steps to move the iconic pottery monument erected on a roundabout on Shaikh Zayed Highway in Aali were taken yesterday.

The move comes as part of the expansion and enhancement works that are currently ongoing on the highway, which witnesses high traffic movement during rush hours on a daily basis.

This is because of the vital establishments in its vicinity, such as the General Directorate of Traffic, driving school, shopping malls, schools, commercial outlets and more, in addition to the fact that it connects main highways such as Shaikh Khalid Bin Salman Highway and Shaikh Salman Highway.



The 14-metre tall monument was erected on the roundabout back in the year 2007. A traffic signal will replace the monument.

Northern Municipal Council Member and Municipal Representative of the Northern Gov-

ernorate Sixth Constituency (Aali) Hussain Al Aali previously revealed that the iconic

monument, which represents the ancient pottery craft Aali is known for, will be moved and

placed on a roundabout inside Aali.

Mr Al Aali clarified that the move comes as the "Pottery Roundabout", along with other roundabouts on Shaikh Zayed Highway, will be removed and replaced by traffic signals as a solution to the heavy traffic jams witnessed by the area.

According to the Municipal Council Member, the average waiting time during rush hours on the highway ranges from half an hour to 40 minutes.

The 14-metre tall monument was erected on the roundabout back in the year 2007, with a total cost of BD200,000.

Since then, it has been a symbol to Aali; one of the largest towns in Bahrain and the house of the historical burial mounds and pottery factories.