

On a record drive

Over 300 women got behind the steering wheels to form the largest ever women-only car parade



Over 2,000 visitors made the event a big success.

PICS BY SUPRIYA REGINALD

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Harpreet Kaur

More than 300 women got behind the steering wheels yesterday to break the record for this year's largest ever women-only car parade.

The event Yalla Banat 2018 brought together women from all over the Mena region to celebrate female empowerment at the Bahrain International Circuit.

Speaking to Tribune, Martyna Al Qassab, Founder and Managing Director at Yalla Banat said, "Bahrain has been making history for a long time now, there are a lot of amazing women in the Kingdom thus we are just joining the moment of uniting



Some of the participants at the event.

everyone on the track, which is the most unlikely of the places

to see a lady.

"Bahrain has been a pioneer in

everything in the region, which is from the first lady driver, from

the first nurses to the first school teachers. For us to do this event at BIC with all these wonderful women who are surrounding us is such an honour and privilege and we are very happy that the ability to do that."

"Originally, we assumed we would have 250 cars participating in the car parade but the turnout at the event was more the 370 and the event witnessed more than 2,000 visitors. We want to thank the BIC and the Marshals Club for taking care of the safety aspect.

Even participants were flown in from Europe and the US, according to organisers. "The participants were mainly from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman and Kuwait," they said.

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The event also had many other attractions including Test Drives, Kids Engagement Zone, SME workshops, Innovative Food Truck Festival, live Graffiti shows and panel discussions.



More than 300 cars formed the record-breaking parade.



BKS honour for top businessman

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The Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) last night presented its Outstanding Business Icon Award to Almoayyed International Group Chairman Farouk Yousuf Almoayyed. Company Executive Director Hala Farouk Almoayyed received the BKS Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur Award at the same function.

Farouk Almoayyed's reputation as a businessman is unparalleled, said BKS President P V Radhakrishna Pillai in his presidential address.

"He invests in continuous improvement of staff through professional development or other means," Mr Pillai said.

Keralite community is deeply indebted to Almoayyed International Group as it employs thousands of our fellow men, he added.

Receiving the award, Mr Almoayyed said it was a special privilege. "Nearly 95 per cent of our expatriate staff are Indian nationals, and among them majority are from Kerala. I always say that our businesses grow on their shoulders."

Earlier at the event, BKS General Secretary MP Raghu welcomed the gathering. Prominent Indian businessman Ravi Pillai was present on the occasion. The programme was followed by a musical night led by legendary Singer Padmabhushan S P Balasubramanyam and K S Chitra.



Mr Pillai hands over the award to Mr Almoayyed in the presence of BKS officials and dignitaries.

PICS BY SURYA PRAKASH



BKS officials honour Mr Balasubramanyam at the event.



Ms Chitra, Mr Balasubramanyam enthralled their fans.