

# Manama ranked 6th in Arab financial centres

● GFCI ranks the competitiveness of financial centres globally based on external assessments from third parties

TDT | Manama

Manama has been ranked 6th in the Arab world and 59th in the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI Index).

GFCI ranks the competitiveness of financial centres globally based on external assessments from third parties, including the World Bank, the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) of the British Economist Group and the United Nations.

The ranking is based on five



Manama has also been ranked 59th in the global index of financial centres

key factors: business environment, financial sector development, infrastructure, human capital, public factors etc.

Dubai has been ranked first in the Arab world and the 15th in the global index of the global financial centres, which included 110 centres around the world.

The list of Arab cities in the index included Abu Dhabi, which ranked 2nd in the Arab world, 26th in the world, Casablanca which ranked 28th in the world, whilst Manama ranked 6th in the Arab world, 59th in the world, then Riyadh ranked 7th in the Arab world and 69th globally.

As per the index, Dubai's ad-

vanced position was followed by its superiority in infrastructure and its position of 7th in the world, as well as its advanced 9th position in the world at the level of human capital and development.

Ranked 11th globally in terms of the business environment, and ranked 14th globally in terms of reputation.

New York City ranked first in the global financial centre index, two points ahead of London, followed by Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai.

The city of Tokyo was ranked sixth, followed by Sydney in seventh place, then Beijing in eighth place, while Zurich came

in ninth and Frankfurt ranked tenth.

On the most important competitive factors to be considered in financial centres, is respondents focus on the impact of precast on the business environment and the high level of concern about the uncertainty of many centres.

They also emphasized that protectionism and trade wars would be negative factors.

At the level of the centres' reputation, participants pointed out the importance of countries' promotion of their positions while expressing their concerns about the dangers of war and the continuation of terrorism.

## Boosting ties with Russia



SCW General Secretary during a meeting with Valentina Matviyenko

● SCW General Secretary holds talks in Russia

TDT | Manama

Ways to enhance Bahrain-Russia bilateral ties topped the agenda of a meeting held by Supreme Council for Women (SCW) General Secretary Hala Al Ansari on the sidelines of the second Eurasian's Women Forum (EAWF) in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The meeting with Valentina Matviyenko, the Russian Federation Council Chairwoman, focused on strengthening co-

operation and exchanging expertise in the fields of women empowerment.

Al Ansari briefed Matviyenko on Kingdom's efforts to support and empower women with the support of the Wife of HM the King and SCW Chairperson HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa.

Al Ansari invited Russian officials to take part in the HRH Sabeeka Award Global Award for Women Empowerment launched by the council at the United Nations Headquarters in New York last March.

Matviyenko praised the efforts of the Kingdom and highlighted the importance of enhancing cooperation between both countries in this area.

## Dr Nkuka hails Princess Sabeeka Global Award

TDT Manama

HRH Princess Sabeeka Global Award for Women Empowerment plays a major role in promoting gender equality, said Dr Fumzeli Malambo Nkuka, the United Nations (UN) Under-Secretary-General.

This came as Hala Al Ansari, the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) General Secretary, met Dr Nkuka on the sidelines of the second Eurasian's Women Forum (EAWF), taking place in St. Petersburg in Russia.

The award, launched last



Hala Al Ansari with Dr Nkuka

March at the UN Headquarters in New York, promotes women empowerment as well as activates their role in the sustainable development processes.

Dr Nkuka said the award boosts equal opportunities and helps integrating women in all sectors of development.

# Bahrain 9th most visited country by per capita, says study

TDT | Manama

Mohammed Zafran

Bahrain is the ninth most visited country as measured by per capita, according to a study conducted by *TravelMag.com*.

The Kingdom receives 3000 visitors per annum every year.

It fares as one of the most popular destinations in the world, taking into account the small population of the country.

The study revealed that Bahrain is the ninth most visited country per capita. It was conducted by taking the annual visitor numbers to every sovereign country (with a population of at least 100,000) and comparing them against the total number of citizens.

The data for the study was used from a report released by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and alternate sources.

"With 6,600 visitors per 1,000 citizens arriving in Iceland each year, the beautiful island nation emerged on top. The Central Mediterranean island of Malta was in second place with 5,300 visitors, while the Bahamas in the Caribbean completed the top three spots with 3,800 visitors," the report stated.

Yemen, Libya, Somalia, Afghanistan and the Central Af-



Tours were opened to Tubli mangrove recently in a bid to boost tourism

rican Republic were the least visited countries in the world.

"At the other end of the spectrum Somalia, Yemen and Libya came out as the least visited counties, with less than one visitor per 1,000 citizens. While no UNWTO data was available for these destinations, tourist arrivals are close to zero ac-

ording to various independent sources," *TravelMag.com* stated.

While some of the most popular countries for tourism like France and the UK received many visitors, it still fared worse when compared to its population size.

"The UK has seen a big in-

crease in tourism thanks to the pound sterling's drop in value after Brexit, but still only sees 569 visitors per 1,000 inhabitants. France received more visitors than any other country in the world at almost 87 million, putting their total at 1,340 per 1,000. And as for India, the vast population (1.32 billion and

climbing rapidly), coupled with pricey visas hampers the numbers greatly, with only 11.7 visitors per 1,000," it stated.

More than 11 million people visited Bahrain last year. Most of the tourists (57 per cent) were on leisure trips, 23 per cent came for shopping, 9pc came to visit family and friends, 6pc for busi-

ness and the remaining were transit passengers.

The biggest spenders' among tourists in Bahrain are Arab tourists. Last year, Bahrain earned BD1.6 billion from tourism. An average of BD1696 was spent by Arab tourists on a five-day trip.

### The top twenty countries for tourism area as follows :

1. Iceland 6,600;
2. Malta 5,300;
3. Bahamas 3,800;
4. Croatia 3,700;
5. Austria 3,400;
6. Maldives 3,200;
7. Cyprus 3,000;
8. Montenegro 2,900;
9. Bahrain 2,900;
10. Estonia 2,500;
11. Antigua and Barbuda 2,400;
12. Singapore 2,400;
13. Greece 2,400;
14. Barbados 2,300;
15. St. Lucia 2,200;
16. Ireland 2,100;
17. Denmark 1,900;
18. Spain 1,800;
19. Luxembourg 1,700;
20. Slovenia 1,700.