

business

BAC, Zain Bahrain in concession agreement for new terminal

● Zain Bahrain will offer a range of products and services at the new facility

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) and Zain Bahrain signed a five-year concession agreement for the operation of a retail outlet at Bahrain International Airport's (BIA) new Passenger Terminal Building.

BAC Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalaha and Zain Bahrain Managing Director, Mohammed Abdulla Zainalabedin signed the deal.

As per the deal, Zain Bahrain will offer a range of products and services at the new facility, ensuring international travellers stay connected while visiting the Kingdom.

In attendance at the signing ceremony were Minister of Transportation & Telecommunications and BAC Chairman, Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed and Zain Bahrain Chairman of the Board of Directors, Shaikh Ahmed bin Ali Al Khalifa, Zain Bahrain Chief Executive Officer,



BAC Chief Executive Officer, Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalaha and Zain Bahrain Managing Director, Mohammed Abdulla Zainalabedin signed the deal in the presence of top officials

Duncan Howard, Zain Bahrain Director of Communications & Investor Relations, Abdulla Khalid Al Khalifa and Zain Bahrain Director of Consumer Marketing & Sales Reporting, Ammar Al Ketbi, and members of the media team.

Al Binfalaha said: "BAC has carefully chosen each of the new terminal's service providers to ensure passengers benefit from the best Bahrain has to offer. We are confident that

visitors will appreciate the wide selection available and the highest levels of service."

Zainalabedin commented: "The new terminal is the gateway to the Kingdom, and it is Zain Bahrain's mandate to provide our guests and customers with the highest quality services."

Upon landing, the first thing many passengers do is turn on their mobiles phones, which can result in costly roaming charges.

Passengers can avoid such fees by purchasing a local pre-paid SIM card at the Arrivals Area, enabling them to enjoy swift and seamless coverage from the moment they arrive in the Kingdom.

Alongside Zain Bahrain, stc Bahrain and Batelco will operate retail outlets and offer their services at the new terminal, ensuring broader and faster mobile coverage for travellers and tenants.

TRA opens registration for Cyber Safety Award

TDT | Manama

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) announced opening registration for the Cyber Safety Award to encourage members of society and educational institutions in Bahrain, to create awareness content in the field of Cyber Safety.

Registration is open to students from public and private secondary schools, as well as educational institutions, schools and universities, to nominate distinguished students for participation.

Applications should be submitted in the form of a short film, of no more than 120 seconds in length, covering the impact of overutilization of social media on young people's social relations and psychological wellbeing.

"Through SafeSurf's initiatives, the TRA seeks to enable youths in the Kingdom of Bahrain by opening the innovative fields to promising talents to spread awareness among the community as well as encouraging students to achieve cyber safety focusing on the effects of it on their day-to-day life," said Sh. Abdulla bin Humood Al Khalifa, TRA's Director of Consumer Affairs and Media.

Online training sessions are available to participants to help improve the skills required for the production of short films. The training will be presented by photography director Hamad Abdulla, win-



Sh. Abdulla bin Humood Al Khalifa, TRA's Director of Consumer Affairs and Media

ner of several international television series and programmes awards. The sessions will illustrate techniques of photography, montage and filmmaking, to acquire special skills needed to enhance the quality of the application.

TRA has also opened registration to join the judging panel. Applicants need to be experts and leaders in the following professions: film producers, film directors, narrators, scenario writers, film critics, social media experts, internet security experts, educationalists, and other related professions. Judges for the Cyber Safety Award will be selected based on their experience and level of expertise.

Terms and conditions and method of registration are available on www.safesurf.bh/award.

Saudi GDP growth projected to see an uptick this year, backed by non-oil sector: central bank



Ahmed al-Kholife

Reuters | Riyadh

Saudi Arabia's economic growth is projected to see an uptick this year, backed by the non-oil economy, the country's central bank governor said yesterday.

Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) Governor Ahmed al-Kholife, also told an economic conference in Riyadh that it was too early to get the full picture of the economic damage caused by the new coronavirus, which has emerged in China and spread globally.

The International Monetary Fund in January said it expects Saudi Arabia's economy will expand at 1.9 per cent this year, up from an estimated 0.4% in 2019, however the forecast for the kingdom's 2020 forecast was cut from 2.2pc due to lower oil output.

Coronavirus to shave 0.1 percentage points from global growth: IMF

Reuters | Riyadh

The fast-spreading coronavirus outbreak will likely lower China's economic growth this year to 5.6 per cent, down 0.4 percentage points from its January outlook, and shave 0.1 percentage points from global growth, the IMF said on Saturday.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva presented the outlook to central bankers and finance ministers from the world's 20 largest economies gathered in Riyadh, but said the IMF continued to look at more dire scenarios.

China reported a sharp fall in new deaths and cases of the coronavirus on Saturday but world health officials warned it was too early to make predictions about the outbreak as new infections continued to rise in other countries.

"In our current baseline scenario, announced policies are implemented and China's economy would return to normal in the second quarter. As a result, the impact on the world economy would be relatively minor and short-lived," Georgieva said.

"But we are also looking at more dire scenarios where the spread of the virus continues for longer and more globally, and the growth consequences are more protracted."



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva speaks during a news conference in Rabat, Morocco

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The latest draft communique from the G20 meeting gives less

prominence to the outbreak of the coronavirus as a growth risk, saying only that the G20 would "... enhance global risk monitoring, including the recent outbreak of COVID-19," the medical acronym for the coronavirus.

The coronavirus outbreak may curb demand for oil in China, which has reported more than 2,000 deaths, and other Asian countries, further depressing oil prices, industry body the Institute of International Finance (IIF) said on Friday.

Georgieva said the IMF was ready to provide grants for debt relief to its poorest and most vulnerable members.

India says discovers fields with over 3,000 tonnes of gold ore



Representative picture

Lucknow, India

India, the world's second-biggest gold consumer, has discovered gold fields with reserves of over 3,000 tonnes in Uttar Pradesh, a government official said yesterday.

India mines between 2 to 3 tonnes of gold annually, relying on expensive imports to fulfil nearly all of its demand, which averaged 843 tonnes per year over the past 10 years.

Its hunger for gold - used extensively in jewellery, as offerings to Gods and in lavish weddings - cost India more than \$31 billion on imports last year, making the metal its second-biggest import item after crude oil.

Central and state departments have discovered traces of gold in Uttar Pradesh's Son-

bhadra district after surveying the area for more than 10 years, said Roshan Jacob, the head of the mining department in Uttar Pradesh.

"In Son Pahadi we have found 2,940 tonne... in the Hardi Pahadi area 646 kilogram of ore has been traced," Jacob said, referring to the two areas where gold ore had been discovered.

The state is now seeking forest and environment clearances after which it will open up the reserves for bidding, Jacob said.

The concentration level of gold in the area is about 3 grams per tonne of ore and the state is working with the Geological Survey of India to determine how much gold can be extracted from the fields, she added.