

# Plans on to boost coastal tourism



Bahrain has huge potential for coastal tourism.

**BTEA to lease out coastal plots to investors to set up resorts, restaurants and marine-related projects**

● Through the introduction of investment opportunities, the authority seeks to increase the contribution of tourism to GDP, develop a unique tourism product and experience that distinguishes Bahrain from its competitors.

● The authority affirms that Bahrain has huge potential for investments in tourism projects, based on its strategic location, access to the rest of the Middle East, the strong infrastructure, encouraging business environment and a stable economic and tourism system.

TDT|Manama  
**Abbas Al Mughanni**

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) plans to lease out four coastal plots ranging between 8,100 and 11,400 square metres to investors with an aim to rake in millions of dinars, while exploring coastal tourism potentials.

It has been learnt that tenders have been issued in this regard. The authority has called on investors to place bids for these plots on Bahrain Bay and each investor can bid for one out of the four plots.

The plots will be leased out for a period of 10 years and investors can set up tourism projects including hotels, restaurants and other marine related businesses.

The authority said that the deadline for the submission of bids falls on June 27 and tender documents can be purchased electronically through the system of electronic tenders issued by the Tender Board.

The authority affirmed that Bahrain has huge potential for investments in tourism projects, based on its strategic location, access to the rest of the Middle East, the strong infrastructure, encouraging business environment and a stable economic and tourism system.

The country also has the expertise and knowledge of understanding the needs of foreign investments in order to cater to them.

Through the introduction of investment opportunities, the authority seeks to increase the contribution of tourism to GDP, develop a unique tourism product and experience that distinguishes Bahrain from its competitors.

It also aims to ensure a sustainable tourism development based on sound infrastructure, social and cultural practices, while improving the support structure for exhibitions and conferences.

Welcoming the move, economic researcher Dr Ahmed Al Yosha said it would create lots of jobs for Bahrainis.

“There is a strong competition in the Gulf. Bahrain needs more initiatives and should take

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**There is a strong competition in the Gulf. Bahrain needs more initiatives and should take advanced steps to maintain its competitive position in the tourism sector.**

DR AL YOSHA

advanced steps to maintain its competitive position in the tourism sector. Competition among Gulf states has also evolved.

“In the past Saudi Arabia did not compete with the Gulf countries, but today Saudi Arabia has taken new reform steps in the tourism sector and this would mean it can have a huge share of the tourism sector and can compete very strongly with other GCC countries.”

He said during Eid Al Fitr holidays, the biggest concerts and shows were organised in Saudi Arabia, attracting a large number of tourists.

“This has had a big impact on its tourism market in the Gulf. Dubai has responded by reducing rates at some hotels from AED1,750 to as low as AED650.”

“We, in Bahrain, will be greatly affected by the developments taking place in Saudi Arabia and therefore the tourism authority must provide more initiatives to maintain the competitive position of the Kingdom.”



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## Brothers jailed for selling drugs

● The officer contacted the brothers, who promised to offer him shabu for BD220.

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Two brothers have been jailed for five years each and fined BD3,000 for selling drugs and attacking police officers.

The defendants are convicted of using and selling shabu (methamphetamine).

Court details say, after receiving a tip-off, the police assigned an undercover officer to arrest

the suspects. The officer contacted the brothers, who promised to offer him shabu for BD220.

“I agreed to meet the officer in Jurdab, where I sold him drugs,” the first defendant told prosecutors.

A team of officers from the anti-drugs squad followed him to his apartment.

They raided the apartment and arrested the two siblings for possessing and selling drugs.

Police sources say the duo, attacked officers, in their bid to resist arrest. “Some officers were injured in the attack,” the sources added.

According to court files, the convicted duo were trading in various types of drugs. “They were subjected to blood tests, which revealed they were using various kinds of drugs.”

## Cinema ticket prices rise 16pc

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The prices of cinema tickets in the Kingdom have gone up by 16 per cent.

An ordinary cinema ticket cost BD3.5 now against the earlier price of BD3.

Last hike was in 2008, when the price of tick-

ets were raised 20pc from BD2.5 to BD3. The revised prices had become effective at Bahrain City Centre theatres since the beginning of this year.

Earlier, Bahrain Cineco had highlighted the need for a ticket price rise, citing pressure from the part of movie distributors, whose profits are merely generated from ticket sales.

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