

HH Deputy Prime Minister receives Indian External Affairs Minister

Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa received India's Minister of External Affairs Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. The minister conveyed the condolences of the Indian government on the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, and recalled with gratitude his contributions to strengthening Bahrain-India relations. The meeting, attended by His Highness Shaikh Salman bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister Dr Abdullahif Al Zayani, and the grandsons of HRH Prince Khalifa, reviewed relations and cooperation between India and Bahrain. HH Shaikh Ali expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Indian government for their noble sentiments and wished India further progress and prosperity.

HH Deputy Prime Minister receives Thai Ambassador

Deputy Prime Minister His Highness Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa received Thailand Ambassador Thanis Na Songkha who conveyed the condolences of the Thai King, government and people on the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa. The Ambassador stressed that Thailand in particular and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries in general recall with appreciation and gratitude the role of the late HRH Prince Khalifa in establishing their strategic partnership with Bahrain and the GCC countries.

'Excellence and innovation'

Bahrain wins five Arab awards on government performance

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday won five awards at the Arab Government Excellence Award which was organised by the Arab League's Arab Administrative Development Organisation (ARADO), in cooperation with the UAE government.

The announcement was made in a visual celebration held under the patronage of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.

Five ministries and governmental institutions won the awards. They are the Health Ministry which won the Best Arab Government Project for Developing the Health Sector, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development which won the Best Arab Government Project for Community Development for its "Khatwa" programme for home projects.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry's Customs Directorate was honoured with the



Bahrain is recognised for its advanced level in health sector

Best Arab Government Development Initiative award for its Governance of Economic and Customs Information to Facilitate Trade (Ofoq).

The Information and eGovernment Authority won the Best Arab Government Smart App award in recognition of its Tawassul App for the Na-

tional Suggestion and Complaint system. The Ministry of Youth and Sport Affairs was selected for its Elite Project which was chosen as the best Arab government project for empowering the youth.

This achievement comes within the framework of the efforts made by the Bahraini

government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister, to benefit from the best practices in upgrading the government's performance to achieve the kingdom's Economic Vision 2030.

US defence delegation arrives

Defence Affairs Minister Lieutenant-General Abdulla bin Hassan Al Nuaimi received the Acting US Defence Secretary, Christopher Miller, and his accompanying delegation upon arrival at the Bahrain International Airport yesterday.

Nogaholding signs Chevron deal

The Oil and Gas Holding Company (nogaholding) signed a Joint Study Agreement with Chevron Middle East Business Development (Chevron) with the aim of evaluating the Kingdom's future gas demand, identifying potential supply sources to meet these requirements and supporting a future supply chain for Bahrain's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal. The agreement was signed yesterday in Manama in the presence of Minister of Oil Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa,

Two Bahraini Coast Guard boats stopped by Qatari patrols

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Two Bahraini Coast Guard boats participating in Al Mani Maritime Exercise in North Fasht Al Dibal were stopped by three Qatar Coast Guards and Border Security patrols.

The boats were stopped on their way back from their mission at 1pm in an area where they are entitled to carry out an intense pursuit, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement.

The act is inconsistent with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) security agreement and with the treaties and conventions related to the International Law of the Sea.

The two boats resumed their movement afterwards. The ministry said that it would inform the Secretariat General of the GCC about the incident.

BIC set for final lead-up to racing in F1 Bahrain GP

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is ready to host today the first of the weekend's events in the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2020.

In preparation for the start of racing tomorrow, a number of important activities need to be undertaken by the F1 teams, drivers and race officials.

The teams will this afternoon go for their customary track walk around BIC's 5.412-kilometre Grand Prix circuit. This gives a chance for the sport's star drivers and their engineers to examine the track up close and gain additional data for their car set-ups.

There will also be system checks conducted later in the day by the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and F1, along with a track inspection and high-speed track test involving the FIA Safety and Medical Cars. These will be lapping the track and the necessary tests will be conducted



F1 teams' crates lined up along BIC's main straight as set-up work continued yesterday ahead of tomorrow's start of racing

on all timing, marshalling and broadcasting systems. An online F1 Team Managers'

meeting is also set for today, along with a Press Conference for the F1 drivers.

Tomorrow's start to F1 racing will include two 90-minute Practice sessions, scheduled

to take place at 2pm and 6pm, respectively. A third 60-minute Practice will then be held Saturday at 2pm, to be followed by Qualifying at 5pm. That will determine the grid positions for Sunday's 57-lap night race, set for a 5.10pm start under BIC's bright floodlights.

This year's Bahrain Grand Prix marks the 15th round of the 17-race 2020 F1 World Championship. It is the front-end of the Kingdom's first-ever F1 double-header, which will be capped by the Rolex Sakhir Grand Prix from December 4 to 6.

That event will provide an all-new spectacle for motorsport fans around the world as racing will take place along BIC's 3.543km Outer Track, which will be used for competition for the very first time as a completely different layout from this weekend's Grand Prix circuit. The Sakhir Grand Prix will feature 87 laps, which is the highest lap count of the F1 season.