

Mandy Moore gets Hollywood Walk of Fame star

Singer-actress Mandy Moore has been honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Moore received the star in the company of her "A Walk to Remember" co-star Shane West, reported dailymail.co.uk. **P14**

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Plan to promote nationalism

Manama

As part of the Royal vision to promote loyalty and patriotism, Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa yesterday launched the National Plan to Promote the Spirit of Belonging to the Nation and Reinforce the Values of Nationalism.

The event was attended by ministers, senior officials, religious scholars, members of the Council of Representatives and the Shura Council, presidents of universities and institutes, heads of schools, representatives of human rights organisations, editors-in-chief of newspapers, businessmen, lawyers, doctors, owners of majlises and heads of sports clubs and youth centres.



General Shaikh Rashid

"The purpose of the National Plan is to protect the authentic values and traditions of the children of Bahrain which represent the best form of solidarity among the people of a nation."

Security reviewed

Manama

The Public Security Chief inspected the security preparations to ensure the success of the Bahrain Grand Prix (Formula 1).

He was briefed on the deployment of patrols, security checkpoints and the level of preparedness ahead of the international sporting event.

He hailed the directives of the Minister of Interior General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa to take all measures to maintain the security of the race, the participants and the public.

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa stressed the crucial role of culture as a bridge to strengthen interstate relations and bolstering positive cooperation.

He made the statement as he attended the Thai Culture and Food Festival, stressing the importance of events and exhibitions in highlighting cultures and civilisations and expanding co-operation.

HRH the Premier was received on arrival at the festival by Advisor to the Thai Foreign Minister



HRH the Premier tours Thai Culture and Food Festival.

Chaisiri Anamaran. He toured the festival and the accompanying events, which reflect long-standing Thai history and civilisation.

"Bahrain and Thailand boast millennia-old civilisational heritage which represents and enriching asset that contributes to strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries in all fields," he said.

Thai Authority for Tourism Authority of Thailand Middle East held the festival at the Gulf Hotel, in partnership with the Thai Embassy in Manama and Gulf Air.

The event featured events reflecting deep-rooted Thai civi-

lisation, including culinary art, fashion and folklore.

The Premier hailed strong historic relations binding the two friendly countries and peoples, commending the event which represents a facet of cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries.

He hailed the events line-up for the festival, reflecting deep-rooted Thai civilisation, thanking the organisers of the festival and the participants for their efforts to ensure the success of the cultural event. He wished Thai leaders, Government and people development and progress.

● Successful commercial trials for 5G technology in the Kingdom were held in June 2018.

● The products and services will be in line with the 3GPP standards issued in 2018 and will predominantly utilise bandwidth in the C-Band spectrum.

Manama

Transportation and Telecommunications Minister Kamal Ahmed has announced that preparations for the rollout of 5G networks in the Kingdom are complete and anticipates that Bahrain will be one of the first countries globally to provide commercial 5G services to consumers by June 2019, pending availability of consumer handsets.

He said that, having completed all the necessary regulatory work, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) is scheduled to allocate licensing and spectrum by the first week of April.

Mobile operators in the King-

5G by June

Bahrain to be among first countries in the world to provide 5G services to customers

dom have already begun rolling out the necessary network infrastructure. "This project comes as part of the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, and First Deputy Prime Minister, of further promoting competitiveness within the Kingdom – in line with Bahrain Vision 2030."

"The project reflects the Kingdom's drive for innovation, the use of the latest technologies, and the continuous support of all stakeholders including the TRA and the national Spectrum Strategy and Coordination Committee (SSCC), all of which serve to highlight the Kingdom's continued role as a regional leader in telecommunications and ICT sector.

"The launch of 5G also reaffirms the Kingdom's leading role in 5G networks and the imple-



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The launch of 5G reaffirms the Kingdom's leading role in the implementation of cutting-edge technology and promoting innovation.

MR AHMED

mentation of cutting-edge technology and promoting innovation," said the minister.

This announcement positions Bahrain as one of the world's leading 5G-ready countries, increasing its appeal as a destination for companies trialling next-generation technologies such as autonomous vehicles and virtual/augmented reality goods, as the Kingdom contin-

ues to encourage investment in world-class telecommunications infrastructure and services.

These products and services will also be ably supported by the National Broadband Network (NBN), which will offer ubiquitous high-speed fibre-based products to operators and consumers throughout the Kingdom.

Successful commercial trials for 5G technology in the King-

dom were held in June 2018 and all licensed operators are preparing to provide commercial 5G services which will be ready to go when consumer handsets become available.

The products and services will be in line with the 3GPP standards issued in 2018 and will predominantly utilise bandwidth in the C-Band spectrum (3GHz) and will allow Bahraini companies to tap into the global 5G services market, which is anticipated to grow from an estimated \$60 billion in 2020 to an estimated \$125bn in 2025.

The Kingdom of Bahrain ranks first in global ICT indices, being ranked first in the Arab region in the ITU's ICT Development Index (IDI), and fourth globally in the UN's Telecommunications Infrastructure Index (TII) of the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) in 2018.

Countdown begins



Some of the biggest motorsport stars arrived in the Kingdom for this weekend's Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2019. Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) will host the racing and entertainment spectacle from Thursday to Sunday in Sakhir. It will mark the second round of the 2019 FIA Formula 1 World Championship and race no 999 in the history of the top flight. It is also the 15th edition of the event and the sixth time it is taking place under BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights as a night race. Amongst the Formula 1 stars who have already touched down are McLaren's British rookie Lando Norris, who has had some success at BIC in the past while competing in Formula 2, and Formula 1 returnee Robert Kubica of Poland, who had captured pole position in the 2008 edition of the Bahrain race.

SPORTSMAN SPIRIT

Zealous soccer fans dig tunnel to reach stadium

TDT | Manama
 Mohammed Zafran

Overzealous football fans dug a tunnel to reach the stadium for watching a game between Bangladesh and Bahrain.

The strange incident happened at Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town a few days ago.

Sources said many Bangladeshi soccer fans were denied permission inside as seats to watch the game were all taken, well before the match began.

However, the relentless fans "engaged in an adven-



A screenshot of the video showing soccer fans digging a tunnel to make their way to the stadium.

ture" to get inside and see their favourite stars in action.

"The game drew a large crowd. The seats were filled before the match began and it was impossible for new spectators to enter. The security personnel started blocking fans from entering," sources said.

"The tunnel was dug using a shovel and many of them successfully entered the stadium crawling through it."

Isa Town also witnessed a huge traffic tailback as hundreds flocked to the stadium. Bahrain won the match (1-0).



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