

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman attends Ramadan football final

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His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman attended the final match of the seventh edition of the Royal Artillery Ramadan Football Championship for Officers at the Royal Artillery Stadium.

The championship is organised by the Royal Artillery.

His Highness awarded the Royal Bahraini Air Force team the championship of the seventh edition of the Championship for Officers after they won the final match with a score of 3-0 against the Royal Artillery team.

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman honoured the players of the final two teams, third place finisher the Royal Bahraini Naval Force, the tournament's best player, top scorer, best goalkeeper, and the referees.

The Commander of the Royal Artillery presented His Highness with a souvenir to celebrate



HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman (third from left of top row) with the champions of the occasion.

HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman commended the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) for supporting the tournament. He also congratulated and thanked the Commander of the Royal Artillery and all its members

for organising the tournament, as well as the Bahrain Football Association and all participating entities, directorates, and teams that contributed to the tournament's success.

The Commander of the Royal Bahraini Air Force, Air

Vice-Marshal Shaikh Hamad bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, the Commander of the Royal Artillery, Major General Shaikh Khalifa bin Hassan Al Khalifa, and a number of unit commanders and senior BDF officers also attended the event.



U-TURN WITH UK

Visa stamp still matters!



P. UNNIKRISHNAN

Bahrain is a beacon of digital progress, setting an example for nations striving to innovate across various sectors. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, its commitment to digital solutions has propelled it further, nudging even the most resistant towards remote work and online transactions.

Government agencies like the Bahrain General Organisation for Social Insurance, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, the Electricity and Water Authority, the Ministry of Finance and National Economy, and the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs have seamlessly transitioned to digital platforms, offering efficient services sans the need for physical presence.

The introduction of the e-gate facility at airports has revolutionised travel. Residents of Bahrain can now bypass long queues, streamlining their journey through electronic gates.

While the decision to cease stamping residence permits in passports signals the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs' commitment to paperless operations, transitioning to digital visas poses challenges, particularly for returning travellers. Expatriates encounter hurdles worldwide, from airline personnel to immigration officers, who often demand physical copies of visas.

This insistence on traditional documentation causes delays at immigration checkpoints despite travellers maintaining digital copies on their devices. Many airports still require printed versions of visas, a regressive practice in the digital age.

The plight is particularly acute for blue-collar workers, who frequently struggle to access their visas online. Introducing a nominal fee for compact visa stamps directly in passports could alleviate the burden for many travellers, incentivising them to opt for traditional visa documentation over digital alternatives.

Devoting an entire passport page to a visa stamp appears archaic — a relic of tradition that could be made more practical. A more streamlined approach involving smaller stamps bearing relevant ministry or country logos alongside visa details would save space and simplify procedures. The Emigration Department could consider levying an additional charge for visa stamping upon demand, potentially generating supplementary revenue.

As Bahrain marches steadfastly towards a digital future, ensuring its transition remains inclusive and pragmatic is essential. It must cater to the diverse needs of travellers while embracing the efficiencies of modern technology.

The author is the Chairman and Managing Editor of The Daily Tribune

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Final Dividend Distribution For the year 2023

Following the Annual General Assembly Meeting of the shareholders of Bahrain Telecommunications Company B.S.C held on the 27th March 2024, we are pleased to inform the shareholders that the distribution of the final dividends for the year ended 2023 will be as follows:

Cum-Dividend Date	1 April 2024
Ex-Dividend Date	2 April 2024
Record Date	3 April 2024
Payment Date	22 April 2024

Eligible shareholders shall contact the registrar Bahrain Clear:
Bahrain Clear
4th Floor, Bahrain Financial Harbor, Harbor Mall
Tel: 17108834 Fax: 17228061
Email: registry@bahrainclear.com

Double trouble

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An African man has been sentenced to seven years in prison for counterfeiting BD20 banknotes using a scam that deceived two female victims into entrusting him with their money by promising to double the amounts and then disappearing.

According to details of the case, the first victim became acquainted with the suspect through his frequent visits to her workplace, where she worked as a transaction clerk. He requested a BD5,000, pledging to return double the amount, BD10,000, after one week.

Impressed by the proposal, the victim informed her friend, who contributed BD3,000 while she paid the remaining BD2,000.

The full amount was then handed over to the suspect. However, once he received the money, he vanished and cut off all communication, leading to the police case.



Large iftar gathering

More than 10,000 people attended one of the largest iftar gatherings organised by the Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre Bahrain. The grand iftar held at Indian School Bahrain premises in Isa Town was inaugurated by Indian Union Muslim League Kerala State president Panakkad Sayyid Thangal.