

News of Bahrain

DT NEWS

44TH
Bahrain
NATIONAL DAY
supplement



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National Day

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BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY 44TH ANNIVERSARY



News of Bahrain

DT NEWS

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Congratulations and Best Wishes to

His Majesty
King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
 The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness
Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
 Prime Minister

His Royal Highness
Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
 Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of
44th National Day of Bahrain and
Accession Day of H.M. the King



Dr. Abdul Hussain bin Ali Mirza
 Minister of Energy
and all employees in
EWA, NOGA & the Energy Sector



SALUTE TO LEADERS

National Day also is a time when we need to pay our respect to the King, for all that the country has achieved in the recent years, without any sectarian divisions, truly and unreservedly from our patriotic feelings.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, that has an opulent and affluent history, is celebrating the 44th anniversary of its National Day this year marking its independence, along with the 16th Anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne. December 16 and 17 are memorable days for all Bahrainis to feel proud of their nation and the whole of Bahrain wears a festive look on this day presenting everyone with joyous moments.

National Day celebrations are widespread in Bahrain, both for the nationals and expatriates, extending through the entire month of December, comprising a wide array of colourful events in every part of the island. Fireworks displays, spectacular lights shows at night, brilliant decoration of public monuments, buildings, commercial establishments, malls, and offices, flags fluttering in the air all along the highways, traditional folk performances and singing, carnivals, aerial parades, heritage shows, contests and competitions, and numerous speeches lauding the countless accomplishments of Bahrain and its citizens under the wise leadership are some of the events lined up for this auspicious occasion. Also on this day, as always, His Majesty the King, in a show of his true generosity and tolerance, pardons a number of prisoners, facilitating them lead a normal life with their kith and kin.

National Day also is a time when we need to pay our respect to the King, for all that the country has achieved in the recent years, without any sectarian divisions, truly and unreservedly from our patriotic feelings. We are proud of His Majesty who has been chosen as the Best Arab National Personality for 2015 by the Arab Creators Union (ACU) in appreciation of His Majesty's influential role in the Arab arena and HRH Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa who was honoured with the 'Information and Communication Technology in Sustainable Development' award by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa who has initiated the Annual Bahrain Grand Prix that made Bahrain the home of motorsport in the Middle East and for having attended US-GCC Council Summit at Camp David following an invitation from the US President Barack Obama to discuss ways to further strengthen the US-GCC security operation. Political, economic, social, media and cultural accomplishments were made as part of the ongoing reform process and the establishment of the rule of law and institutions, in line with the Economic Vision 2030.

As a proud citizen of this country, it gives me immense pleasure to join the millions including Bahrainis and expatriates on this occasion of the National Day Celebrations and reaffirm my commitment, determination and dedication to my nation.



**Najeb Alhamer
Honorary Chairman**

KING OF HEARTS

Muhannad Mansour

Throughout the past twelve months, and as we have always known him, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa repeatedly insisted through his wise speeches on the importance of unity, coexistence and security. His words didn't only focus on the local aspect, but his visions aimed to spread peace throughout the Arabian region and the world, eventually leading him to be chosen as Best Arab National Personality for 2015 by the Arab Creators Union (ACU).

During the last few days of the year 2014, His Majesty patronised the opening ceremony of the fourth legislative term, officially commencing a new chapter of the National Assembly (Shura Council and Parliament) that would continue for the following four years.

The event was attended by His Majesty the King, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Also among the dignitaries in attendance were the newly elected/assigned ministers, Shura Council members and MPs, in addition to a wide range of diplomats to the Kingdom and senior military and civilian officials. In a speech addressed to the crowd, His Majesty the King underlined the efforts put by the government, headed by the Premier, to provide security and highest living standards to the people of Bahrain, as well as the sustained development of the Kingdom in all sectors.

"Our top priority at this phase is the achievement of sustainable development and pushing forward the economy of Bahrain towards further progress and growth, relying in this operation on multiple sectors, which will make our economy more steady, enduring and capable to confront the effects of the economic crises the world is going through," said King Hamad.

During the Royal speech, His Majesty the King emphasised on the key-role of the youth in maintaining the achievements of the country, praising their contributions in all practical and developmental fields, as well as arts, literature and sports, also valuing the advanced international prizes they have gained at global gatherings.

During his address to the crowd, His Majesty the King underlined the milestone reforms resulted from the National Charter, as well as the National Dialogue, asserting that they are key factors to achieve the nation's unity and stability.

GCC united naval base in Bahrain / GCC union soon

His Majesty the King reiterated the Kingdom's constant keenness on "pushing forward the Gulf Cooperation Council march in order to achieve further integration and heading seriously towards union."

Noting the constructive outcomes of the previous Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders' summit that was held in Doha in



2014, His Majesty the King mentioned the decision taken by GCC leaders, approving Bahrain to host the headquarters of the Unified Naval Operations Centre, including the Unified Naval Task Force 81.

His Majesty also lauded "the establishment of a Gulf Police body, with its headquarters in Abu Dhabi, which is considered an advanced phase of the joint security work, and will reinforce the capabilities of the police agencies in the GCC States."

"The Kingdom of Bahrain is always keen on pushing forward the Gulf Cooperation Council march in order to achieve further integration and heading seriously towards union. The agreement of Riyadh and the Riyadh supplementary agreement, which have been signed in Riyadh recently, will give our union more strength and power," said His Majesty the King.

"Therefore, we express our appreciation for the great role played by the late Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia and our brothers, the GCC leaders, who have been keen to reach this agreement which is in the good benefit of all the citizens of the brotherly GCC states."

His Majesty the King added, "The Kingdom of Bahrain was, still is and will remain extending its hands for cooperation and peace to all the countries, and we always call for international relations, based on mutual respect and non-interference in the domestic affairs of the other states, which requires, at this phase, that we preserve peoples' stability and progress, fight extremism and terrorism which disrupt the construction process and ruin the future of the peoples."

Second legislative term opening

Ten months later, in a similar ceremony that

was held to open the second legislative term, King Hamad highlighted several crucial points that are witnessed by the nation in several fields at the present time.

His Majesty mentioned the exceptional economic challenges that are not only affecting the country, but sweeping the entire globe. He announced that the Kingdom had taken few measures to adapt with these challenges, without affecting the development march of the country or harming the interests of citizens.

"Despite all circumstances, our joint national action and development programmes will grow and continue in all sectors that serve the nation and the citizens, particularly the projects of infrastructure, education, health, housing and all other vital services," HM the King confirmed. His Majesty also referred to the continuous attempts that are targeting the Kingdom's security and economy and aim at destabilising it by jeopardising the safety of citizens and residents. He said, "We have had enough experiences and challenges over the past years from which we have learnt how to deal soundly with conspiracies orchestrated against all of us. We were able to expose

and foil them by open national minds and vigilant social awareness that reject all acts of destruction, vandalism, narrow-mindedness and fanaticism."

His Majesty hailed the efforts of Bahraini soldiers and security personnel. He declared December 17 to be the Annual Martyrs Day to commemorate and honour Bahrain's martyrs in recognition of their sacrifices and redemption for the sake of their country and Nation.

Royal appreciation for expats

Bahraini people have always embodied the principles of friendship, tolerance, reciprocal respect and openness on the world. It gives us immense pride to note that during a meeting with 'This is Bahrain' organisers, His Majesty took pride in the diversity of the Bahraini community, asserting that every individual has the right to enjoy a secure and decent life. He affirmed that those values still represent a source of inspiration and as they are the core of the National Action Charter and the constitution, they will continue constituting a framework for future national achievements.

It is clear that many other world leaders now see the wisdom of His Majesty's vision and are now actively implementing these same goals and objectives in their countries. From British Prime Minister David Cameron, to the US President Barack Obama to French President Francois Holland, they are all now focusing on the vital importance of interfaith dialogue, religious freedom, and eradicating the ignorance that breeds fear and that can all too easily lead to the gateway of evil that can take our vulnerable young people down the path to extremism, radicalisation and terrorism.

PRINCE KHALIFA: THE MUCH-ADMIRER LEADER

Whenver there was a need for consolation, the caring hands of Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa had always been there for the people of Bahrain.

Throughout the last 12 months, the Premier always took lead in defending Bahrain against all powers, internally and externally, which repeatedly tried to disturb peace in the Kingdom.

"Bu Ali, the father of all", this is how the people of Bahrain love to call him, has always cautioned the people to be vigilant against the forces which have been trying to manipulate the situations here. It might be resolving the issues of fishermen, preparing for the rainy days or even postponing the meat subsidy removal, the Premier came up with crucial solutions that fulfilled the needs of the citizens and residents alike.

Prince Khalifa is the first Arab Prime Minister to have been honoured by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), being among leaders who strongly support the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in achieving sustainable development goals. ITU conferred the "Information and Communication Technology in Sustainable Development" award on the Premier during a ceremony held at the United Nations headquarters, in the presence of countries' leaders, heads of governments, senior UN officials and diplomatic corps. The award was a global appreciation for all Bahrain citizens who have every right to be proud of it, and are keen on continuing the achievement and dedication march under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH Premier said in his televised speech to ITU.

ITU honoured him after assessing Bahrain's giant strides and progress in the telecommunications sector and efforts to take advantage of ICT in boosting sustainable development, which has enabled the Kingdom attract telecommunication investors.

Prince Khalifa underscored the crucial role played by ITU in promoting technology and using it to find the best solutions and achieve sustainable development, which, he said, "deserves praise and appreciation."

"The challenges currently facing the international community in its quest to achieve sustainable development are inter-linked and require concerted national, regional and international efforts; otherwise the real and necessary change to ensure a better future for the human kind will not take place," he added.

Under the leadership of HRH Prince Khalifa, the Government of Bahrain has continued its serious efforts to support ITU and highlight the importance of ICT in achieving sustainable development through hosting ITU's conferences and participating in them effectively.

This award testifies the long-standing support



visionary achievements in leading the Kingdom's ICT development throughout its varying stages, which have resulted in Bahrain's high rankings among the global community. Bahrain faced many crises and challenges, but could emerge stronger and is able to bring about many achievements to its people which won the appreciation of the whole world. The lawmakers have praised the role of the government, led by Prince Khalifa in promoting the culture of diversity and freedom, turning Bahrain into an oasis of tolerance and co-existence.

Constant push for economy

The Premier has constantly called for the need to adopt financial strategies and fiscal policies that stimulate the economy and enhance its growth, as well as ensure and protect financial and fiscal stability, especially amid the current global situation and the increasing number of regional and international economic threats.

On more than one occasion, the Premier stressed that King Hamad

was always keen to achieve the best for the Bahraini people through bringing about more landmark national achievements. "The government is doing its best to achieve the Royal aspirations and fulfill the expectations of the citizens through providing the best services in various fields, including education, health, housing and basic services," he said, stressing that despite challenges, the government was resolved to continue its efforts to build and develop the nation in all fields in order to achieve its ultimate goal of serving HM the King and the citizens.

of His Royal Highness to the development of the ICT sector, with his continuous interest in ensuring that the foundations of technological development are in place across the government sector, to serve as the fundamentals for a technological and scientific revolution that will form the crux of sustainable progress and development.

The Premier's vision has been paramount in positioning Bahrain among top regional and international rankings, and the Award for Sustainable Development in ICT is an acknowledgement by the global ICT industry, as represented by the ITU at its 50th Anniversary commemoration, of the Premier's



PRINCE SALMAN: THE CHAMPION OF PROGRESS

DT News Network

Either local arena or international forums, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, has successfully highlighted progressive and unbiased stand of Bahrain on various issues.

Prince Salman played a major role in highlighting Iran's interference in the internal affairs of its neighbours during the 11th Manama Dialogue summit, held between October 30 and November 1.

The participants of summit agreed the notion of the Crown Prince that Iran's activities are inflicting harm to the whole Middle Eastern region.

During the summit, the Crown Prince highlighted that the GCC-led efforts in Yemen demonstrated the way in which diplomatic efforts can be aligned with military collaboration in order to decisively address conflict.

The Crown Prince emphasised that all countries must recognise that long-term stability was built on the foundations of hope, opportunity and prosperity, and that the principles of tolerance and coexistence must inform every aspect of regional reform. In regards to Syria, the Crown Prince said the international community must admit the difficult truth that it had collectively failed the millions of innocent people, who are badly affected by the civil war.

Prince Salman also participated in the COP 21 climate change conference in Paris and expressed his solidarity with France in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism and conveyed the Kingdom's sincere condolences to the people of France following the tragic events that took place in Paris on November 13.

The Crown Prince noted that the Paris Climate Summit represented a historic opportunity for world leaders to address the dangers of climate change, and that Bahrain supported efforts to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius. The Crown Prince also emphasised that climate change must be addressed in a manner that balanced the shift to cleaner technologies with the need to protect and raise living standards. Thus, he strongly highlighted the stand of Bahrain on climate change on an international forum.

"The Paris Climate Summit represents a



historic opportunity for world leaders to demonstrate resolve and determination in addressing the pressing challenge posed by climate change. No part of the world is sheltered from the effects of a rise in global temperatures; and as a small island developing state, the Kingdom of Bahrain truly understands the importance of adapting to rising sea levels, water scarcity, desertification and biodiversity loss. We support efforts to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius," the Crown Prince said in the meeting.

The Crown Prince's International Scholarship Programme has been successful in nurturing the minds of

Bahrain's future generations through education. The programme provides Bahrain's most gifted and talented youth the opportunity to learn at the finest international educational institutions. Prince Salman's vision to develop young Bahrainis from all walks of life to take key positions in Bahrain's public and private sectors in the future has been well accepted by the nation, which is marching ahead towards prosperity. This will provide the country with the knowledge and expertise it will need to continue to grow, prosper, and to become a key member of the global community.

OUR BAHRAIN

The National Day of Bahrain reminds its citizens of the very many achievements the country has gained thanks to the wise leadership and our responsibility to pay respect to the King for providing a clear direction for the continued development of the Kingdom's economy with a comprehensive economic vision for Bahrain with the goal of building a better life for every Bahraini.

It's a day for all Bahrainis and expatriates from all walks of life to feel proud of this nation and join the nationwide celebrations with great interest and enthusiasm.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, a beautiful archipelago of 33 islands, is marking the 44th anniversary of its National Day and the 16th Anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Accession to the Throne, on December 16 and 17.

The month-long celebrations present a carnival look all over Bahrain with everyone taking part in a triumphantly joyful manner. Various events take place on this occasion and hotels on the island get packed to the capacity.

Stunning firework displays, heritage shows, traditional folk dances, aerial parades, contests and competitions, beautifully-decorated public monuments, hospitals and offices are a feast to everyone's eyes.

Coinciding with the National Day, the King issues Royal pardon to several prisoners granting them a new lease of life.

The National Day of Bahrain reminds its citizens of the very many achievements the country has gained, thanks to the wise leadership and it's our responsibility to pay respect to the King for providing a clear direction for the continued development of the Kingdom's economy with a comprehensive economic vision for Bahrain with the goal of building a better life for every Bahraini.

It's a fact that Bahrain has politically come a long way since His Majesty King Hamad's Accession to the Throne with the elected representatives in Parliament playing a central role in legislation and policy making with no compromise whatsoever on the constitutionally-enshrined rights and freedoms.

It's a gratifying factor that Bahrain is the only country in the region among all the GCC states that has diversified away from complete dependence on oil and established itself as a hub for banking and regional commerce.

The country feels proud of His Majesty the King on being chosen by the Arab Creators Union (ACU) as the Best Arab National Personality for 2015 and granted the ACU Oscar and the Creativity Excellence Medal; Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa for winning the "Information and Communication Technology in Sustainable Development" award by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa for having made the Kingdom the home of motorsport in the Middle East by launching the prestigious Annual Grand Prix and for his participation in the US-GCC Council Camp David Summit reflecting His Majesty's keenness on ensuring that Bahrain is part of the historic summit.

As citizens of Bahrain, we pay respect to the King and deem it a privilege to be part and parcel of the National Day celebrations and express our love for our country.



Mahmood Al Mahmood
Responsible Editor

JUST BEFORE THE RAIN



P. Unnikrishnan

Chairman, DT Management Board

The rain drops on the windshield woke the sleeping wipers up, and they began to swish back and forth like a fascinating lullaby.

Through the half raised window, the frosty wind came in singing a note, but with no steady rhythm. I was rushing to a meeting in Manama.

All I needed was a parking space just to fit my small car in. While I was fishing for this, completing my second round around the building, I saw a young man in shabby clothes waving his hands, gesturing me to slow down.

The thin young man closed in on the car. He had a cleaning cloth in his hand – obviously one of the illegal expatriates, judging from his papery skin – and the yellowish tinge in his eyes, as he tried to smile.

Somehow he had managed to find me a parking space. I finally let out a sigh of relief.

As I tried to rush to the meeting, the man popped me the obvious and expected question, “Sir, may I wash your car?” I didn’t even answer his question. Instead, I just nodded my head from left to right indicating a big no. He didn’t visibly look upset, but his eyes were trying to request me for help... and it haunted me till I reached the office, where I had my meeting scheduled.

The businessman I met, looked a bit shaken.

Before I could ask him anything, he said, “The economy is expected to go through a crisis. Oil is falling. Business confidence is low. Along with that, the sectarian issues and terrorism are making things worse. Government spending has come down. The Kingdom’s major spender is the government. It requires \$120 per barrel oil to run without budget deficit, and oil is near \$35. GCC tourists’ spending power has come

down. The situations in Saudi and other GCC countries is no different.”

He took a long pause after this.

“What do you think, is the best way, to overcome these issues?” I broke the silence.

He took a sip of his coffee and said, “We have to look into the past, present and future. In general, the main resource-rich countries like GCC countries are not self-sufficient; we have the most expensive cars on the road, the latest gadgets, the most popular textile brands, but we failed to produce any consumer goods. We buy from safety pins to cryogenic engines from other countries.”

“What is the solution?” I asked, a little embarrassed.

He looked out through the French windows that adorned the meeting room. The water drops on windows mixed with dust, ran down and made what it seemed like modern art.

He took another sip of coffee, and reclined on his revolving chair.

“There are solutions for every problem.

We need to look into those countries, which went through major disasters. Look at Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Finland – they managed to overcome all those bad days.

The one, who is going to run fast with the time, is going to be the richest,” he shot back, “whether it is a country, organisation or individual, those who can implement things fast, are going to dominate. More than the natural resource, land and technology, knowledge and fast implementation are going to be the hymn for success





We never went through such major disasters. It is time to act and focus on what we do. We need to learn from countries which came back from worse situation and flourished." He was in a mood to talk, and I was excited and keen to hear more views from this practical business tycoon.

He continued...

"During the days of primitive communism, the man with more muscle power used to dominate. Later, the man with more land became the richest. Then came the era of technology, and during this time, one with the most advanced technologies became the richest. If you look at the last ten years, the one with more knowledge has become the richest."

"What about future?" I found his logic very interesting and asked with a smile.

"The one, who is going to run fast with the time, is going to be the richest," he shot back, "whether it is a country, organisation or individual, those who can implement things fast, are going to dominate. More than the natural resource, land and technology, knowledge and fast implementation are going to be the hymn for success."

"What next? What do you think Bahrain should focus on?" I enquired.

Without a second's thought, he replied, "It is time to invest more in education. Bahrain can easily become a hub for education. We can attract students from neighbouring countries. We need more research centres. We have Zuckerberg, Dustin Moskovitz, Andrew Mason, Elon Musk amongst us. We just need to identify them and motivate. What they need is just the moral and educational support. We can create another Silicon Valley for the Gulf."

"What do you think is the obstacle for this?"

The question came out of my curiosity.

"Bahrain should stand with unity, focus with vision and work hard to overcome the crisis. We need to spread this message. I am worried about those who forget this reality. That is my concern and worry to invest..." he said.

As I left his office, I noticed that the street lights had started blinking, the sun almost setting.

While walking through the street, I could feel the chilly wind planting kisses throughout my face.

As I neared my car, I stood for a while in a state of shock.

The person, I met on the road earlier, was almost on his final stages of washing my car. "Why did you wash my car? Didn't I tell you that I didn't want your service?" I sensed my annoyance seeping through in my voice. "Sir, If you don't want to pay, please don't. I have done my service. I thought I'd finish it before it rains," he said, as he backed up and stood a bit away from my car.

I felt bad and paid him BD1 from my pocket. I opened the door of my car, as I was getting in, I told him, "What you are doing is a totally illegal job, but the money I paid is for the confidence and trust you had up on me."

As I drove off through busy street, the smiling face of that man reflected onto my rear-view mirror.

I was thinking about the confidence of that man on the street, than the thought provoking worries shared by the businessman. The cloudy sky was getting armed and ready for a heavy downpour. It can rain at any time but my question is all about whether I can save enough for a rainy day?



BAHRAIN - A SYMBOL OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND INTER-FAITH TOLERANCE

Soman Baby

Chief Editor

Yet again, as Bahrain celebrates its 44th National Day and Accession day this year, we can see that this island nation glows brightly like a tiny, shiny star in the constellation of nations. Ascending up in many fields - despite some internal disturbances and some external disappointments - Bahrain illustrates to the world how resolution and resolve can give its collective aspiration a unique strength. On many facets, it is evident that the vision of the Royal leadership is enabling the nation to stay on, and not stray from, the charted path of progress.

Diversification of several industries,

in both the private and public sectors, is ensuring that the fall in the global oil prices does not severely affect this nation's economy.

On economy, Bahrain continues to be ranked Number One - as the freest economy - in the Middle East and North Africa region, according to the 2015 Index of Economic Freedom, released by the Heritage Foundation and the Wall Street Journal. The report ranks Bahrain as 18th in its global index of 178 countries.

Tolerance remains a special characteristic that is woven into the fabric of this society ensuring that the expatriates feel a warm welcome. It was exactly this that His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa highlighted when, on 7 December at Sakhir Palace, he welcomed the participants and contributors of 'This is Bahrain,' a unique event



organised by the Bahrain Federation of Expatriate Associations (BFEA) in many European countries and in the US. I was privileged to be among the group.

"Living in Bahrain, you experience these key Bahrain values every day. You see for yourselves the warmth in the welcome, hospitality and friendship extended by Bahrainis from all walks of life," he had said.





His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at the Bahrain International Airshow. (File pic)

"You experience the freedom to practise your faiths, develop your communities, and celebrate your heritage. Most of all, you share in and contribute to our desire and determination to build a just, prosperous and tolerant society for future generations."

Those values, he said, still represent a source of inspiration and as they are the core of the National Action Charter and the Constitution, they will continue constituting a framework for future national achievements.

No wonder Bahrain is ranked 1st in the Middle East and 4th in the world, when it comes to expat-friendliness, according to HSBC 2015 Global Expat Explorer survey. Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa endorsed the King's views and remarked that Bahrain would always remain strong, thanks to the wisdom of His Majesty and its citizens' cohesion and keenness to develop the nation. Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin

Hamad Al Khalifa, who is also the Chairman of the Economic Development Board, confirmed that the Kingdom of Bahrain is implementing a comprehensive programme of structural economic and fiscal reforms to further strengthen its long term development.

The unique togetherness and the shared vision of this country is making Bahrain rise up like a special star illuminating the need for focus as we keep up the onward march.





Congratulations

and best wishes to

His Majesty

King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness

Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness

Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander

And First Deputy Premier of the

Kingdom of Bahrain

And the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain

on the occasion of

NATIONAL DAY

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HERALD THE PAST GLORY OF DILMUN



Dr. Pierre Lombard

According to Dr. Lombard, the recent archaeological findings have highlighted the significance of Dilmun civilisation at a global platform

Qalat Al Bahrain



Melvin Mendonca

When winter approaches, locals as well as foreign tourists begin visiting Qalat Al Bahrain Fort And Museum in big numbers to explore the history of Bahrain. They go deep into the past history of this Kingdom, while roaming the picturesque area amid the cool breeze. But the question is, do they really acknowledge the richness of Bahraini history, which dates back to Dilmun era? History says that Sumerians, Greeks, Persians, Portuguese, Turks, Wahhabis, Omanis as well as Britons had dominated this archipelagic state. But the most interesting fact is, this Kingdom had always been a strong, strategical link between the Indus Valley Civilisation and the Mesopotamian Civilisation. The Indus Valley Civilisation was developed between 3300 BC and 1300 BC in northwest Indian subcontinent (including present Pakistan and northwest India) and some parts of northeast Afghanistan. It flourished in the basins of Indus River and the now dried up Sarasvati River. The Mesopotamian Civilisation was spread in the area of Tigris-Euphrates rivers, between modern day Iraq, Syria, Kuwait and also the Turkish-Syrian and Iranian-Iraqi border. The written history on the Mesopotamian

History says that Sumerians, Greeks, Persians, Portuguese, Turks, Wahhabis, Omanis as well as Britons had dominated this archipelagic state. But the most interesting fact is, this Kingdom had always been a strong, strategical link between the Indus Valley Civilisation and the Mesopotamian Civilisation.

Civilisation starts from 3100 BC. According to the historical evidences available, Sumerians, Akkadians, Babylonians and Assyrians dominated in Mesopotamia, also known as the cradle of civilisation by the western world.

But the recent archaeological searches have established the strong link created between Indus Valley and

Mesopotamian Civilisations, by the Dilmun people. That is what highlights the very particular entrepreneurship and genius of the Dilmun people, said Dr. Pierre Lombard, Counsellor for Archaeological Affairs of Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), and Head of the French Archaeological Mission in Bahrain.

Dr. Lombard first visited Bahrain in 1979 when he was a student in France. In 1989, he began his service in the Kingdom as a head of the French archaeological team, currently under BACA and French Ministry of Foreign Affairs supervision. Since 1989, there have been a lot of new explorations in the Kingdom, providing innovative dimension to the history of Dilmun civilisation. According to Dr. Lombard, ancient people of Bahrain had been the

main key for these international contacts during the Dilmun era itself. They had been successful in attracting people from different corners of the world. That's why Bahrain grew up as a huge business harbour, serving the needs of both civilisations.

The Sumerians, who had been ruling Mesopotamia, did not have copper reserves. But Oman had enough




Congratulations
and best wishes to

His Majesty
King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness
Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness
Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander
And First Deputy Chairman of the Kingdom of Bahrain

And the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of
NATIONAL DAY



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So far, the world spoke about Indus Valley, Mesopotamia, Chinese and Egyptian civilisation extensively. But the days are not far, when people will see the Dilmun civilisation at par with these great centres.

copper mines at that time. Therefore at first, Sumerians had to visit Oman to buy copper, which had been the major component to produce weapons as well as other necessary metallic objects. Then the copper trade used to take place progressively via Bahrain and the traders used to stop in this Kingdom, said Dr. Lombard, adding that several cuneiform texts of Mesopotamia, from 2500 to 1750 BC, speak about the boats of Dilmun. "It is a sign of prosperity and geniusness of Bahrain, which transformed the island into a main platform of economic redistribution," the archaeologist said. According to him, two archaeological facts strongly highlight the flourishing of Dilmun civilisation in the Bahraini land. One is the immense burial mounds fields and another one is the Dilmun seals. The burial mounds, found in A'Ali, Janabiyah etc., date back to 2200 BC to 1800 BC and they are unique in the world. The archaeologists have so far identified nearly 75,000 burial mounds at the origin in the Kingdom, according to the most recent counting, said Dr. Lombard.

The Dilmun seals are also unique in many ways, he said. These tiny objects are the main witnesses of all these trade transactions and they also are the main support of the inventive, artistic expression of the Dilmun people. The Dilmun civilisation was spread in Eastern Arabia from Bahrain to Kuwait, including the Saudi coast. Another civilisation called Magan, developed

at the South of the Arabian Gulf, in the present UAE and Oman, and can be considered as Dilmun's sister. Both of them had contacts with Mesopotamia and Indus. But historical sources clearly show that Dilmun was their main significant partner.

Is the world aware of this rich history of Bahrain? According to Dr. Lombard, the recent archaeological findings have highlighted the significance of Dilmun civilisation at a global platform.

So far, the world spoke about Indus Valley, Mesopotamia, Chinese and Egyptian civilisation extensively. But the days are not far, when people will see the Dilmun civilisation at par with these great centres. In the next 20 years, probably Dilmun will be better known and understood in the history, he said. "We have to be careful when we speak about 'great' civilisations. Before 50s, Dilmun was not known at all. In the last 20 years, we discovered a lot about it. Every discovery will add new dimensions to the history, he said. Earlier, the Mesopotamian civilisation included only Iraq. But the recent excavations now extend its territory into Syria also. Historians and archaeologists are discovering a lot about other areas like Central Asia or the East coast of Africa. In the Arabian Peninsula itself, main results can also be expected from the recent development of archaeology in Saudi Arabia, with probably new results about Dilmun.

Dr. Lombard considered that a lot

**WISH YOU A
HAPPY
NATIONAL DAY**



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“ It is a sign of prosperity and geniusness of Bahrain, which transformed the island into a main platform of economic redistribution ”



of scientific research results are available on Arabian Gulf history in leading international academic libraries. Moreover, online libraries have made the jobs of historians and archaeologists easier, he said adding that BACA will soon publish a detailed book about Qal'at Al Bahrain Museum. In Bahrain, the archaeologists are continuously working on various layers (eras) of history, including

the recent Islamic period. At Qal'at Al Bahrain, Jidd Al-Haj, Khamis Mosque and other sites, work is under progress to find more on post-Islamic era. A clever country should try to learn more about all periods, without exclusion. One cannot restrict the study to a specific time. One could expect surprises only when the research is done without specifying any boundaries, said Dr. Lombard.

Burial mounds.



May our great nation
Prosper and grow each day.
Wishing you congratulations
On the National Day.



Best wishes from

ENGR. QAMAR UL HASSAN

EX. CHAIRMAN OF INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS PAKISTAN
BAHRAIN CHAPTER

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, Mob: 39431815, 33073787

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT BAHRAIN-55 YEARS AGO!



Mr. Tahir

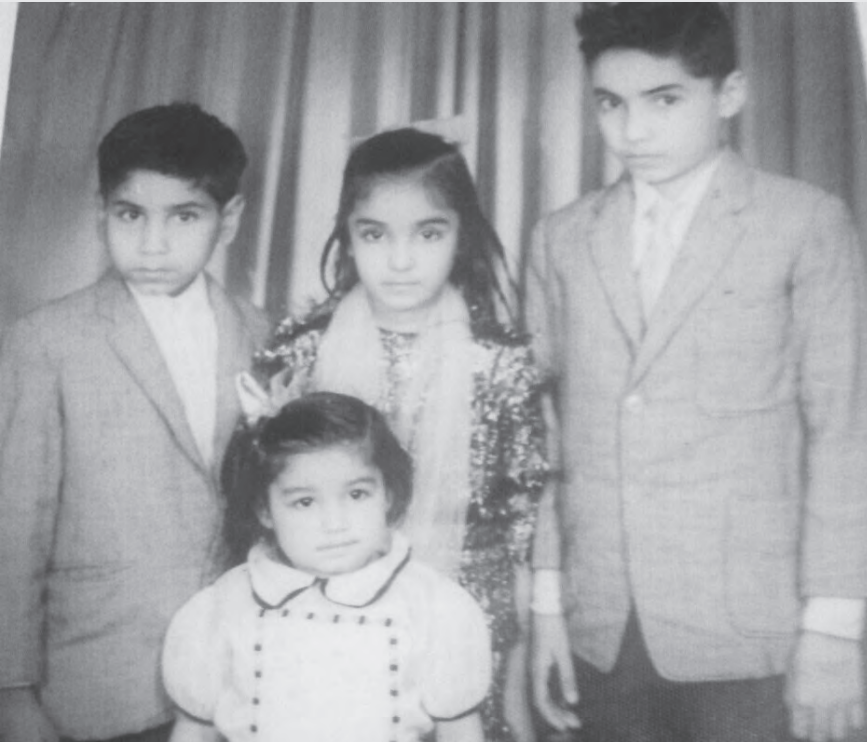
Tahir Hameed was just 3-year-old, when he landed in Bahrain. Decades later, he still remembers the details of it all.

Mehr Jan

Tahir Hameed was just 3-year-old, when he took on a journey that would change his life forever; and decades later, he still remembers the details of it all, starting from the very moment he set foot on the ship that would take him and his family into the waters of an unknown island, called Bahrain.

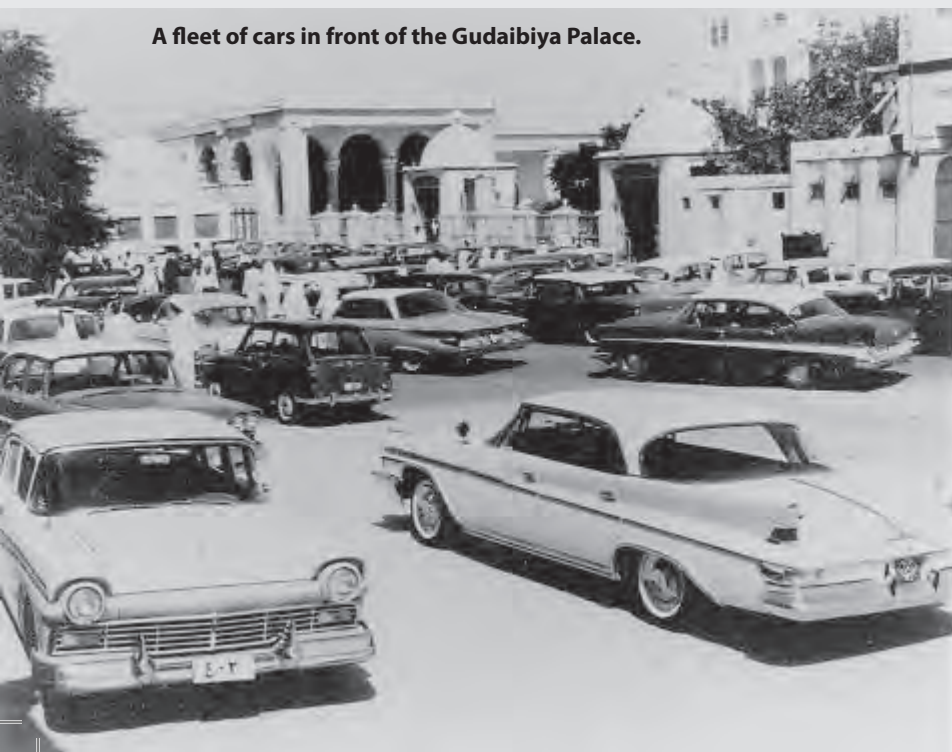
Originally from Indian Kashmir, his family resided in a small village called 'Akhnor'. His father, who was in the Royal Air Force (RAF) decided to move out of India, following the turmoil that came with the 1947 India-Pakistan partition. On foot, they covered 20-25km and eventually reached a city called Sialkot and it was here, Mr.Tahir was born. And in a matter of time, Mr.Tahir's father decided to take up a position in an RAF base in Bahrain in 1958. In 1960, he called his loved ones to join him on the island as well.

Unbeknownst, the family, consisting of a mother, three daughters and two sons, took the leap of faith and went to Karachi, and on board a ship, they travelled through six ports, for seven days, finally reaching the waters of Bahrain. However there weren't any ports at the island at that time; the only way to reach the shore from the big vessels was through the traditional boats called dhows. Stopping



Mr.Tahir (right) with his siblings during their early years in Bahrain.

A fleet of cars in front of the Gudaibiya Palace.



A cloth weaving in process





A Manama market shop in the late 1950's



A party for Bapco employees.

right behind where Bahrain Financial Harbour stands, the family, along with many others, touched the land of Bahrain and the first impression was of a desert with simplicity.

"It wasn't anything like the Bahrain of now. Stretched on for miles, was just plain lands of sand. Even most of the houses were created with palm trees. There was simplicity and humbleness", shared Mr. Tahir. He began schooling at the long-standing 'Urdu School'. However in 1965, the school was split into two, after the India-Pakistan war, with a new institution taking form called the 'Islamia School'. Mr. Tahir managed to complete his education till the 8th grade, after which, he had to leave the country due to lack of further educational opportunities. He moved to Pakistan and upon completion of his college education, came back in December 1972, this time noticing visible changes in the country.

"Once the petrodollar came in, the infrastructure started to take visible shape. While the shipping company 'Gray MacKenzie' stood prominently on the seashore, the reclamation of the land brought a new chapter to Bahrain's standing," Mr. Tahir shared.

The dawn of the multi-storey buildings

The first reclamation came in 1967 by the government, upon which they built the Government House. Second building that took shape on the land was the 'National Bank of Bahrain'. Also stating the fact that there were no multi-storey buildings in Bahrain when he moved there (only with a ground and first floor), Mr. Tahir recalled the first building with many floors, was the Kanoo Travels Headquarters. Plus it had brought forward a luxury very uncommon to many- air-conditioning. "I remember, me and my friends would stand close to the building's door, and as soon as it would open, a strong gust of cool air would come across. Air conditioners weren't that common and enjoying whatever of this heavenly cool air was always a treat."

The cuisine of those days...

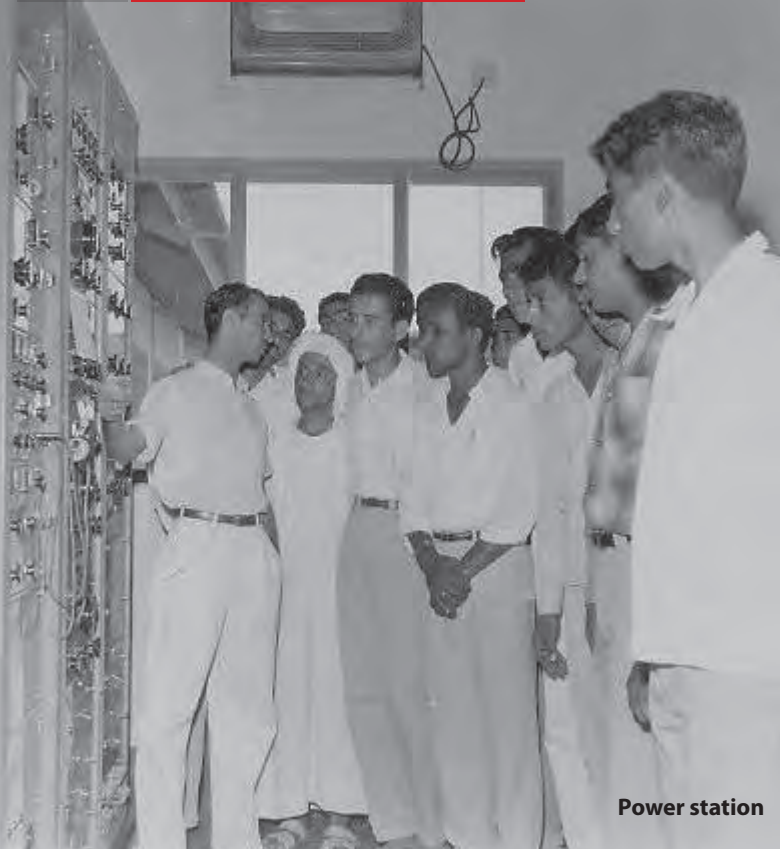
The cuisine of that era, while having a limitation on international gourmet, was pretty much centred around Indian delicacies. As Mr. Tahir informed, "When we came here, it was surprising to learn that many Indian dishes were enjoyed here, by the locals as much as the expats. Reason being, that Arabs used to travel a lot and study in India; even most of the



Dobiya- one of the earliest mechanisms of laundry



An aerial view of old Bahrain



Power station



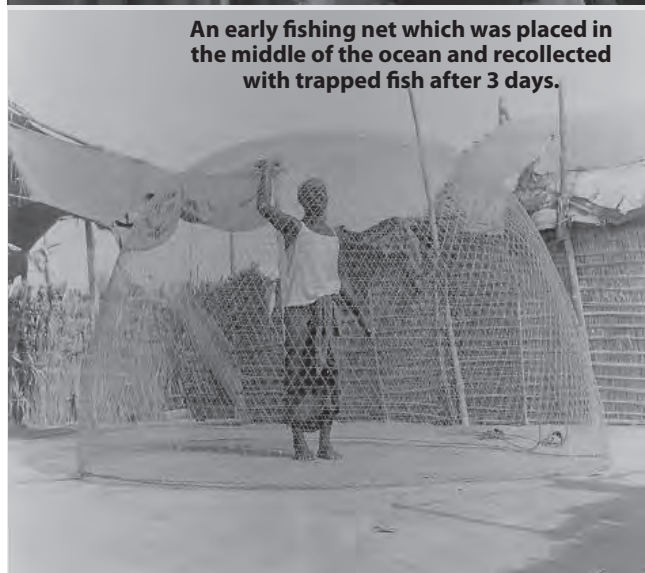
A typical Friday scene of getting together and sharing stories of the week



A typical scene of Bahraini festivities



Having a picnic with friends and loved ones



An early fishing net which was placed in the middle of the ocean and recollected with trapped fish after 3 days.



Mina Salman Seaport



One of the earliest modes of transport- donkey rides



Dhows

cooks hired by them were Indians. While 'Harees' was a popular local dish, many residents of the country still preferred 'birayni'. He also spoke on the popular first Pakistani restaurant 'Paradise restaurant', which still stands as a popular food joint, enticing the tastes of locals and foreigners alike. The many different regional delights like 'hummus', 'falafels', 'shawarmas' and many more, only started to venture into the cooking sector after the seventies when people of many different places, were finding their home in Bahrain. And it was only in the later 1970s that the first burger fast-food chain opened in Salmaniya. "The Dairy Queen (DQ) that stands now in Salmaniya was originally a bus stop and due to the popularity of the spot, the restaurant quickly gained prominence as well and people started to develop a taste for the western food culture, specifically burgers and fries."

Love for the silver screen

When it came to keeping oneself entertained, there wasn't much of a spectrum of choices for the people, but there were cinemas, and many of these cinema houses played Indian films. "Cinemas have been a part of Bahrain's entertainment for a long time, even before I came; the cinemas had been standing there for more than 15 till 20 years. In fact Lulu cinema is the only one still standing from that era. Indian movies garnered a huge crowd, in fact even Hollywood films came in quite later for the general public, only a few played at RAF Base in Muharraq and those shown at the Bapco cinema, for the company's employees only. I remember we used to go almost every night with my father to watch movies, and that were either Indian or Persian."

The development of public transport- donkey carts and wooden buses

When it came to travelling and reaching places, people were pretty much accustomed to the use of donkey carts and wooden buses, but in late seventies, public transportation took a strong development surge when the chassis of old Bedford trucks were placed upon those wooden structures, leading to the creation of the popular way of transport, which stayed till the late 70s.

These buses were the public means of taking people from Muharraq to Manama and back-aside from the privately owned, coloured Bapco buses for their employees.

The currency change

For a long time, the currency that was made use of was the Indian currency, until 1966-67, when the Bahraini dinar and fils came into the picture. "I remember I had two-and-a-half rupees saved, and upon changing it into the Bahraini currency, I was given the Bahraini quarter dinar, called the 'ruba' dinar."

Adhari Park: A spring water sensation

It wasn't like the Adhari park that we know of today. The park of the sixties consisted of no rides but of a spring of sweet water with a strong water flow; it would get the excitement charged as adults would jump into the cool water from a heightened structure, whereas children would do the same from a smaller block of structure. The area was covered in thick palm trees and also some structures on the path of the waterway, allowing women to enjoy the cool waters as well.

Malls and bazaars

The first mall built was the 'Kuwaiti building' in the late seventies; it was of excellent class due to air-conditioning availability and indoor shops, before which it was usually Bab Al Bahrain bazaar where people would head to. The Kuwaiti building still stands, however it has been vacated and entrance has been blocked, due to dangers of it collapsing anytime. Yateem Centre opened later and it was much more of a fancy take, as with shops, it also had two restaurants in it, bringing forth the concept of eating and dining at the same time.

Sports: football took the lead

The first stadium was in Isa town, which targeted football only. "We foreigners liked to play more of cricket and since there were no proper grounds, we would play the sport wherever there was an empty space."

A longing, a void of some sorts

While Tahir believes he found his home in the Land of Pearls, and has so much to share and cherish with his loved ones in this country, there is still that part of him that longs to visit Kashmir. While his father rarely talks about it, his mother used to share many anecdotes of the place she once belonged to.

"I remember showing her images of the Kashmiri village from Google map and her leaping with joy. My children don't have that connection and it's okay. What they can cherish is the closeness of communities here, who sit and share stories together every Friday. Where the elders play a game of dominoe, drink gahwa and talk about the events and happenings of the week, youngsters roam around and look for the simplest of entertainment, which still is more endearing than having to sit together and look at our smartphones, a lifestyle dilemma, sadly taking over the youth of today," Mr. Tahir concluded.



Making a dhow



Palm tree houses



Playing the most popular sport- football



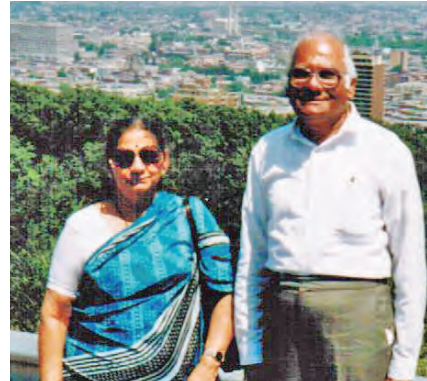
One of the earliest professions- a pearl jeweller

58 DISTINGUISHED YEARS IN BAHRAIN!

A love story between a man and a foreign land



From left, Meena Bhatia (daughter of Mr. Bhatia), Sarla Bhatia and Mr. Bhatia.



In this age of globalisation, people move from one country to another for education, jobs and marriages. But seldom does a foreign land embrace one with such open arms and warmth that help the individual feel as much at home as to stay on for years, and identify it as his second home. It is one such rare story of Govindas Assandas Bhatia, who came to Bahrain way back in December 1957 at the age of 32 and since then has been living, working and raising his family here for more than the last six decades. Born in Karachi on 25 May 1925, little did Mr Bhatia know in his early life that one day Bahrain would be the place where he would live for the longest period of time. After completing his graduation from D. J. Sindh College in Karachi in 1946, Govindas had started his career in aviation quite early— at the age of 21 when he joined the Indian National Airways Ltd., Karachi. Within a year of this, Govindas moved on to join the British Overseas Airways Corporation - BOAC (now British Airways), Delhi in 1947. In 1950, when Mr Bhatia was still working there, the Gulf Aviation Co. Ltd formed wholly owned subsidiary of BOAC AC (Associated Company) operating de Havilland Dove & Heron aircraft.

On the pivotal day of 11 December 1957, as part of the Aviation team, Mr. Bhatia landed in Bahrain from Mumbai on BA789 Argonaut aircraft for the first time. The small airport at Muharraq where he landed was then operated by the RAF. Having arrived on the terms with the company that he would return back to Delhi if he missed his family, Govindas stayed on in Bahrain at the persuasion of the Bhatia family here and served as the Gulf Aviation as Assistant Accountant during the reign of Hakim Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa (1942-1961).

The Bahrain of those days was starkly different as Mr Bhatia fondly recalls. "There were no policemen, only 'Natures' (watchmen) at night. They carried big bamboo sticks and wore khaki uniforms. Sweet water was delivered in donkey carts. Local people were very friendly and helpful. People were honest and crime was virtually unheard of. We hardly locked our front door.

“Aviation professional and renowned Royal Accountant Govindas Assandas Bhatia tells us how he arrived on this island with trepidation, and how this beautiful country became his second home even before he knew it!”

Traffic on the roads was mostly human, or animal driven carts supplying kerosene. There were hardly any cars," Mr Bhatia reminisces.

As Mr Bhatia continued to live and work here in Bahrain, his hardwork, sincerity and industry got duely recognised and awarded by Gulf Aviation. He was promoted to the post of Chief Accountant in 1969 during the reign of Amir Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa (1961-1991). He recalls with pride witnessing the historic day of 14 August 1971 when Bahrain acquired its independence. By 1974, Mr. Bhatia had become one of the founders of Indian Fine Arts Society (IFAS) Bahrain, with three stints as Honorary President between 1976 & 1986 but not continuously. He was at the time, the longest serving Honorary President. In 1976-77, Mr Bhatia was appointed as the Financial Advisor & Chairman, Tender Committee of Gulf Air. Meanwhile, Mr Bhatia also served as the Honorary Accountant of Indian Ladies Association (ILA) from circa 1980 till 1987. His wife, Sarla Bhatia, was a founder and an active member of ILA. After years of dedicated work, Mr Bhatia retired from the last post held in Gulf Air, on 31 July, 1991.

Mr Bhatia continues to live here in the heart of Bahrain

witnessing the changes of the times.

"Manama and Muharraq were still very small towns. Al-Markh, Bani Jamra, Hidd, Zallaq, Tubli and other towns we now recognise were only villages. Isa town and Hamad Town were built much later. There were no high rise blocks, no highways and no fly-overs. The tallest buildings were of two stories high at the most. In fact, the first residential high rise building in Bahrain was the Almoayed twin towers in Manama, opposite Manama centre / NBB building. I moved to A K Almoayed tower during late 60s. It was intriguing that people used to come to the building just to ride in the lift! There were no towns as such outside of Manama except for Awali. People who lived there had to travel to Manama for all of their shopping. Major landmarks were the Khamis mosque, the Portuguese fort (before it was restored) and the dhow port which is still near the Financial harbour. Dhows crossed regularly carrying passengers to Saudi and Qatar. The Refinery was the first one in the region and it was supplied by the oil pipeline from Saudi and had been in place for a number of years before I arrived," recalls Mr Bhatia.

Today, as the country enters its 43rd year of Independence, *DT News* salutes the man who flew into the island one fine day and since then have been contributing to the land by giving it his best for almost six decades now.





LAND OF IMMORTALITY: KEEPING HERITAGE ALIVE

Muhannad Mansour

Bahrain is the land of immortality. There is a unique power in the soil of this island, which made it a destination for seekers of immortality for thousands of years, says a longtime resident in the Kingdom.

This wasn't a comment from any resident though. This was spoken by a man who spent almost the past three decades working as a grave digger in Bahrain.

Sudanese national Yehya Al Noor landed in Bahrain in the year 1989 and has been the main man taking care of one of the biggest and most ancient cemeteries in the Kingdom, Al Hunainiya Cemetery, located in Al Hunainiya Valley, beneath the historic Ahmed Al Fateh Fort in Riffa.

The 75-year-old said he inherited the job from his ancestors in Sudan, as his family was known for centuries for doing funeral services and laying people down to their last resting place.

It's not a simple job, he informed, especially when burying your loved ones. Yehya said this while recalling the moments he buried his father, wife, daughter, son and uncle here in Bahrain and in Sudan.

Speaking about his life before coming to Bahrain, Yehya said he worked at the Sudanese Armed Forces, where he studied electrical engineering and travelled to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the mid-eighties where he worked as an electrical engineer for a couple of years.

"I travelled to Bahrain in search of better prospects. Knowing the history of my family in the funeral services field, some of the members of the Sudanese community here in Bahrain informed me that a grave digger is needed at Hunainiya cemetery and I'm here since then," Yehya said.

Yehya shared with DT News why he believes that Bahrain is the land of immortality. "If this land isn't blessed, why would some of the first human civilisations travel for months to bring their dead here and bury them with all of their valued belongings, believing that this land has the power to resurrect them and grant them eternal life," he said.

He mentioned the historic epic of Gilgamesh who travelled from Mesopotamia (Iraq) to the island in his pursuit to find the flower of immortality.

"Looking at all these historic graves scattered across the island raises questions in my head. There is a secret in this land that attracts ancient and modern civilisations. On top of that, Bahrain was one of the first destinations for the emerging religion of Islam around 1500 years ago, and the people of Bahrain were among the first in the region to welcome and accept the message of Prophet Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him)."

"So many scenes I have witnessed during my thirty years of residency here that motivated me to leave my land, my career and choose to live and die here," Yehya said.

He also recalled the liberation of the island in the hands of Shaikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa (Ahmed Al Fateh) in the year 1783.

"I have buried the late Amir of Bahrain Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa back in 1999 and other Royal Family members. I have interacted with them on more than one occasion. The sons of Al Khalifa are true descendants of pure Arabs and it's reflected in their braveness, generosity, kindness and humbleness towards the people of Bahrain."

Remembering the late Amir, Yehya said he once met him at one of the funerals in the past. He said that the late Amir Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa disregarded the presidential protocols and shook Yehya's muddy hands in front of a huge crowd of high-ranked officers and dignitaries.

"I chose to stay here in Bahrain, because the love, hospitality and generosity I saw from the people of this country who made me feel that I'm at my own home and they're my family. I was newly wedded when I came here. By God's grace, I now have 40 children and grandchildren here in Bahrain. I planted the love of the country in them since young ages and taught them to be grateful to the kindness of the people of Bahrain."





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DREAMING FOR BAHRAIN

Al Namal group Chairman announces new university and a hospital for the common man

Tahir Haneef

For Varghese Kurian, Bahrain is the place where his vision became a reality and the lessons learned from his father bore fruits. He talked to *DT News* recently and explained about the long grinding progress one has to make in business. "It is not easy to become a successful entrepreneur. People will see only the success, and often forget the long struggle a business person has to grind through before achieving such a success," the Chairman of the multimillion Al Namal Group said.

As a token of appreciation towards the Kingdom, he is now building a hospital that will give affordable treatment for the common man. The hospital, coming up near Salmaniya, will have specialties which are not offered in the Kingdom and the work is nearing completion. "The project is not aimed at making money, but as a thank-you note to the Kingdom," Mr. Kurian added.

Commenting about his group's progressing projects, he said: "Our biggest projects for 2015 include the completion of the construction of a shopping mall with a hotel in Juffair. Other projects include three hotels, which are currently under construction and another shopping mall which is also under construction. We have three or four new projects for 2016 in Seef area, including a five-star hotel and we will take on further projects as the year goes on."

He counts 2005 as the year in which his businesses made big strides, thanks to the booming construction market at that time. The global recession and the unrest in the Kingdom through the end of the last decade and the start of the current decade was a difficult time for his group. Instead of deserting the island nation in times of difficulty, he increased his investments in the Kingdom; despite suffering from cash flow setbacks.

As a visionary man, he has big dreams for Bahrain. His vision of starting a university which can accommodate students from all of GCC, including the expats, is at an advanced stage of finalisation. A BD 20 million residential education hub is being envisaged by Mr. Kurian and his partners that would change the higher education scene in the Kingdom. For this, discussions are being held with a top-notch Indian University as well as a UK University, according to the Al Namal Chairman. The project will be completed within two years.

He signed off the discussion with best wishes. "On the occasion of Bahrain's National Day, I would like to congratulate His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Royal Family and Bahrain's citizens," said Mr Kurian.

Varghese Kurian



PARTNERS IN GROWTH

Established in 1990, Al Namal Group has over the years, developed into a leading contracting company in the region.

VKL Holding and Al Namal Group of companies Chairman and Managing Director Varghese Kurian is the visionary behind the considerable success.

Operating under its parent company VKL Holdings, Al Namal Group is purely focussed on construction and has been the company of choice for many leading projects in Bahrain.

Al Namal Contracting and Trading was established in 1990 as a division of Al Namal Group.

It is ISO 9001:2008 certified and currently operates with a multinational workforce of more than 3000 people on projects in various locations.

Now one of the fastest growing construction companies in Bahrain, Al Namal Contracting and Trading has completed more than 200 projects since its inception including luxury villas, high-rise buildings and apartments, hotel complexes, resorts and industrial buildings.

The company is fully equipped with all the necessary equipment, such as mechanical hoists, tower cranes, concrete mixers, mechanical dumpers, road rollers, supporting vehicles and more. With a qualified and experienced team of safety officers, all safety measures are implemented onsite.

Al Namal Contracting and Trading is also fully equipped with

machines to manufacture all types of aluminium doors, windows and railings with a highly dedicated team of experienced workers.

Another division of Al Namal Group is Al Namal Mechanical Contracting Company which deals with mechanical, electromechanical, heavy engineering and steel fabrication.

This division deals with a range of installation and maintenance works including high and low voltage electrical installation, hot and cold water services, plumbing and sanitation, water treatment plant installation, wrought iron works, thermal insulation and metal cladding and much more.

There is an extensive set up for fabrication at Al Namal's modern workshops located in Salmabad and Sanad.

Al Namal Carpentry is also fully equipped with all kinds of machinery required for highly skilled decoration works.

A workforce of 150 highly experienced furniture carpenters form a formidable team to undertake any type of carpentry works including wooden doors, windows, wardrobes, cupboards, kitchen cabinets, decorative furniture, wall panelling, false ceiling works and much more.

The idea behind each division is for everything to be available to clients under one roof, resulting in seamless communications between departments, effective time management and exceptional quality management procedures right from the beginning to the end of a project.

Juffair Mall and Hotel...one of the major projects of 2015.





Congratulations

& Best Wishes to

His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa

King of Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander &

First Deputy Prime Minister

The Royal Family, Government and the People
of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

On the occasion of Bahrain's

44th NATIONAL DAY



Al Namal & VKL Group

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Al Khulood Aluminium Factory W.L.L, a leading Aluminium Architectural Fabricator in the Kingdom, specializes in design, manufacture and installation of structural glazing, curtain walls, skylights, double glazing, windows & doors, railings, automatic/manual sliding door system and composite panel cladding. The company follows the slogan 'Service Today'; a guaranteed on time service commitment to its customers by qualified and experienced technicians. Al Khulood offers best quality products, with strict quality control and support

wing and a dedicated after sales service. The company also have a fully operational trading division 'Khulood International Trading Co. W.L.L' to offer building material/aluminium accessories which includes authorized dealership in full range products of high quality MATRIX industrial cutting discs, blades from Korea. Al Khulood follows a quality policy that strives hard for excellence in all aspects of business and strives to maintain its reputation by providing innovative and highest quality products, services and caring for customer's utmost satisfaction.



Vijay, Managing Director



On this National Day, let us together pray,
may our nation prosper always.

HAPPY NATIONAL DAY

 **مضج النلود للألمنيوم ذ.م.م.**
AL KHULOOD ALUMINIUM FACTORY W.L.L

Specialists in Aluminium Architectural products
Aluminium Cladding, Curtain Wall, Structural Glazing, Skylight,
Automatic & Manual Doors, Windows, Frameless Units, Railing etc...

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Dealers in all kind of aluminium Profiles, Accessories and Building Materials Complete Solution on Interior Fit outs.

MKS GROUP: FOSTERING GROWTH OF BAHRAIN

MKS Group is a Bahrain based business group with a hybrid organisational form between a firm and market. This is a group of companies that does business in different markets under common administrative control with a solid commercial background. The group, established and promoted in the early 90's by M.K Sivadasan & Nirmala Sivadasan, two Indian business icons, has been now well established Bahrain, other GCC countries & India in diverse activities and fields.

Sun Middle East Contracting Co. S.PC

Sun Middle East Contracting Co. S.P.C (SMEC) was established in 2004 as a Bahrain based building contracting company. Within a short span, company



**M K Sivadasan,
Chairman**



**Nirmala Sivadasan,
Vice Chairman**

recorded a huge growth and has carved a niche for itself in the field of engineering and construction and we had clinched the honour of First Grade Company in the Kingdom, a few years back. Under the directorship of Ramesh

Chandra Patidar, SMEC is achieving the heights. Since incorporation, we understood the secret of success: "Success demands Creativity & Innovativeness". From the initial stage, we have kept our eyes on the changing needs of the construction industry. From mind crafted villas to modern skyscrapers, there is one thing in common, i.e. our willingness towards the enhancement of lifestyles. It is a tedious job for an architect to portray a drawing on papers. Still the same making into a practical structure in quality and beauty is the most important and purposeful task. As a responsible contractor, we are always committed to our projects and are not ready to compromise in quality at any cost.



Working Hours
Morning 8.00
To
Night 10.00

603



Sun Hotel & Resort, Rajasthan, India

For adding value to our Quality Services, we offer: -

- General Civil Engineering
- Building Contracting
- Trading
- Building materials
- Carpentry Workshop
- Welding Blacksmith & Iron Fabrication Work shop
- Import / Export of Granites, Marbles, Tiles, Sanitary wares etc.

● Aluminium Contracting
● Interior works
SMC has become the leading construction company, specialised in handling all forms of commercial buildings, factories and warehouses, schools, hospitals, entertainment complexes and residential development apartments and villas. It handles turnkey projects from concept to handing over to clients.

The company recognises the importance and necessity of sound project planning and progress control to ensure that the projects are completed within the time frame set by the client and in a most efficient manner. A Master Programme is produced during the commencement of a project so that the critical on site dates for various activities are identified. This Master Programme incorporates Engineering, Services and Installation Activities, which are inter-related as appropriate and ultimately related to the Contract Milestone Dates. Reports and plans may be produced daily, weekly or fortnightly or combination of these, depending on the nature and time period and its integration requirements.

The company has fully equipped with manual drafting facilities and fully equipped computer-aided-design CAD facilities.

Quality Assurance (QA) / Quality Control (QC) section is involved in the approvals and acceptance process of material procurement. Before any orders as well as upon deliveries of material, a series of checks are carried out and documented to ensure that the proposed materials meet the requirements of the contract. At all stages of the construction process, inspections and tests, as appropriate, are carried out by QA/QC section and work stages can only progress as and when the relevant approvals to proceed are granted. The management of the company recognises the need and accepts responsibility for providing a safe and healthy workplace and working environment for all



Ramesh Chandra Patidar, Director, Sun Middle East Contracting Co.

employee and will provide the resources to fulfill this commitment. The company provides the technical advice on safety and health matters to site In-charges / foremen as necessary to assist other site staff.

Our main asset is to give quality work with the satisfaction of the consultants and the clients.

Today, we stand with pride beside those who have contributed in building a modern Bahrain. We dedicate our success to every individual who worked alongside us as a team, translating the challenges of a growing economy into opportunities of a better tomorrow.

Al Ayyam Trading Co. W.L.L.

The company is an exclusive representative of all kinds of building materials in Bahrain and focuses on mutual strength for expansion. This is one of the biggest retail building material shops of its kind, dealing with all kinds of building materials under one roof. It was established in 1993 and later added one more branch in Salmaniya. Our customers, suppliers, employees, agents and distributors remain valued members of this expanded relationship and it has always been a very special one-on-one ideology.

Here with us:

- All kinds of hardware available for all building materials/ requirements i.e. from doors, kitchens, offices, glass, shops and wardrobes to tools.
- A complete range of exported electrical appliances suitable for all types of building with maximum quality.
- All kinds of doors available to suit the needs of all customers.
- Sanitary ware – 'Everything in bathrooms' is our mission to provide a complete bathroom collection of our established brands.
- Various kinds of flooring such as laminated, solid wood and others to suit your needs.
- All kinds of timber from all over the world are available with us.
- The best existing range in plywood and others at affordable prices.
- Tools: Power tools, carpentry tools and hand tools.
- Leading largest collection of well-engineered MDF boards, this is also known as 'Custom wood' or 'Craft wood.'

- Leading distributors of branded paints like Berger.
- A collection of well-known international brands in laminates.
- Leading reinforcement steel distributors.

Al Amal Hospital

Established in 2006, it is one of the leading healthcare service sector divisions in Bahrain. Our commitment to excellence is our motto. We are providing region's finest care with compassion. The hospital has the capacity of 35 beds. We established a behavioural quality systems to teach employees not only how to do their job well to meet technical quality standards, but also how to fulfill patient expectations. Our patient care quality is not only exclusively in the domain of medical staff, but also must be regarded as a comprehensive responsibility of hospital.

The Indian Ayurvedic Medical Centre S.P.C. (IAMC)

It is a prestigious division of the group in the field of healthcare. This is the first Ayurvedic Medical Centre in Bahrain established in 2003. IAMC provides both curative and preventive measures towards optimal, physical, mental and spiritual well-being and also treats the symptoms of a disease and it helps individuals to strengthen their immune system. IAMC provides all positive health services to people through herbal medicines and massage therapy. These treatments are conducted under the direct guidance and supervision of reputed and experienced Ayurvedic Physicians registered under The Ministry of Health of Bahrain. The most eco-friendly system of treatment relies completely on herbal medicines with no harmful side effects.

We, at IAMC are engaged in the task of spreading awareness of the benefits of Ayurvedic way of life through dedicated efforts of our highly motivated team. Our aim is to revive the memory of our true divine nature and to rekindle our intrinsic ability to heal ourselves. Here we treat the body, mind and spirit of a person as a whole entity, and work on the basis that mind and body affect each other, and together can overcome disease. Ayurveda is more than a system of herbal medicine. It is a way to a healthy and long life and can compliment modern medicine. Ayurveda has two main aims: it treats the symptoms of a disease and it helps individuals to strengthen their immune system.

**Macromart at Riffa****Providence Tower at Juffair****International Medical City Hospital (IMC)**

International Medical City Hospital (IMC) was established in Bahrain in 2006 with a vision to provide quality outpatient, diagnostic and secondary care to the people of the Kingdom. We are committed in providing the best patient care and our focus is centred on utmost patient safety, transparency, patient satisfaction and infection control in order to maintain a strong statement of care and compassion to our patients.

**Rajesh Rajappan - Director
Al Ayyam Trading Co****Aju Madhusudhanan, Group
Financial Director, MKS Group****Maria Hospital, Adoor, Kerala, India**

Another Prestigious division of MKS Group in the field of Health Care in Kerala, India. To cater for specific medical requirements, Maria Hospital provides excellent healthcare in a comfortable, beautiful and relaxed setting with 100 patient rooms and suites in addition to a day-case unit that can accommodate 25 patients. Today the hospital has been equipped with all necessary modern treatment equipments and medicines to compete the needs of all categories of patients.

Lattice Computer Consultancy

Lattice Computer Consultancy was started in August 1999 in Bahrain to provide consultancy services in specialised areas of Information Technology. Lattice constitutes

a professional team of engineers who have expertise in the fields of Hardware, Software and Telecommunications.

Thawabit Properties W.L.L.

It is a real estate company under the group, established in the year 2008, which helps people with buying, selling or leasing homes, buildings and land. And we are also dealing with the construction of villas and other major civil works. We receive enormous satisfaction from finding perfect new home for our clients or helping owners to sell a home for a good price. Although we share a common vision of role of corporate real estate,

the service providers focus more on traditional real estate tasks than corporate business strategy. The optimum balance of staffing/outsourcing, consisting of corporate real estate staff, understands the overall corporate strategy and devotes its resources to strategic planning, programme development, contracting, and monitoring outsourced tasks.

Al Ammadi Car Services

This garage, established in 1991 in Dumistan, is affiliated with all insurance companies in Bahrain. Main activities include all kinds of auto services i.e. denting, painting, electrical, exhaust service and selling of spare parts.

Sun Hotel & Resort

It is an ongoing project in an area of 30 acres of land in the heart of Rajasthan, India. Modern/latest recreation/ leisure facilities will be provided in the resort. The prestigious project is expected to open in March 2016.

Sun Industries

It is established in 2010 in Abu Road (Raj.). Steel Rolling mill is being set up under its name.

REG Towers at Hidd**Wael Pharmacy at Biw, Hidd**



May our motherland live forever.
Wishing you and your family many congrats on this day.

Happy National Day



شركة سن ميديل ايسست للمقاولات (ش.م.ع.و.)
SUN MIDDLE EAST CONTRACTING Co. (S.P.C.)

FIRST GRADE BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Specialized in Construction of Commercial & Residential Buildings, Ware Houses etc.

WISDOM OF AGES

from Aref Sadeq

The best Bahrain memories at my age of course are linked with the early days of Bahrain where, for us, the whole of Bahrain was one sheet called Bab-Al-Bahrain, Awali linked through Riffa and the airport and RAF linked through Muharraq.

To me Bab-Al-Bahrain street is really the root of all development in Bahrain as a cultural centre as it was the meeting point of all the cultures; philosophers, doctors, business men, lawyers, all types of visitors from all the countries of the world.

The meeting place used to be a couple of tea shops lined with wooden benches with jute mattresses. Serving Mallah, Rhob topped with sugar and Khubaz. It is here that we learned the rich culture of this country and some of the most important lessons of our life. Everyone older to us was our uncle to be respectful and listened to and whose complaint to our parents about playing marble on the streets, or swimming in the sea next to Naim hospital, or any kind of misbehaving, could result in a thorough court martial at home.

It is here, in our fathers shop in Bab-Al-Bahrain that we overheard Mr. Ahmed Ali Kanoo that the best thing that can happen to you is to become bankrupt and the sooner in life that can happen to you, the better. It was here that Mr. Mehdi Tajjar taught us that we do not need academic education, we need value based education that teaches us responsibility, persistence, courage, compassion, honesty and wisdom.

Mr Ali Fakhro, who by the way named all of us brothers n sisters, often used to repeat that if you want to be successful then do things that failure do not like to do.

Mr Yousuf Almoayyed once joked that a smooth sea never made a good mariner. We need to have yearly sale and in each occasion Mr. Mulji used to say 'put on sale or tael

Aref Sadeq



(oil), it makes no difference to me. Mr. Usman Baluch taught us that no matter how financially difficult the time is for you, always make yourself available and never avoid answering the phone. Jokingly he used to say that when you are in debt, buy a Rolls Royce and park it outside your door because then no one will ask you for the money. And if you are in more debt, buy 2 Rolls Royce. So you see Bab-Al-Bahrain was really our educational paradise where daily you heard words of wisdom that started the growth of Bahrain and which, I am sure, spread with its people to other gulf states. In this wisdom and education is the foundation on which we can face the present and even more difficult challenges. The secret of success can be learnt from the life histories of successful people. These people have certain qualities which are common irrespective of what period of history they lived in, and by following their examples we too shall be successful. It is from these pioneers and philosophers that this futuristic Bahrain has developed. If one had a magic wand and could change only one thing that gave one a better penetration in the market, then that can only be the changing of their peoples attitude. Our biggest asset and the biggest liability is people. What needs to be done is to pass this wisdom and knowledge to the people in slow, dilute doses. We have to start by teaching our people to say please and thank you and give smiles and handshakes. The problem is how long

a person can smile if he does not have the desire to serve and may be, the most irritating attitude is a fake smile.

There is a quote from Blaise Pascal, the famous French philosopher whom someone asked "if I had your brains, I would be a better person. Pascal replied "be a better person and you will have many brains.

We need to break a foundation that is not carrying the burden of wages and working conditions but carry the weight of feelings, attitudes and relationships.

We have to have continuous dialogues with people who continuously say I cannot do it, as the timing is not right, the weather is hot, and several other reasons.

If the people say they cannot do it, they mean either they do not know how to do it- which is a technical training issue or they do not want to do it which is either an attitude issue 'they don't care' or a value issue "they do not believe they should do it".

Fortunately this problem can be solved at organizational level which should have the awareness of the attitude of the people. Sometimes we are so used to our negativity that any change is stressful, even when the change is for the better. It is like a bird in a cage. Even if you open the cage it will be reluctant to fly. That is where a little push is required.

All problems can be solved and all organization grows at a tremendous pace if you have people with a positive attitude.

There is gold in every person as said

by Andrew Carnegie who grew from an odd job boy to the largest steel manufacturer in the world. He had over 40 millionaires working for him. Mr Carnegie was asked how he dealt with people, his answer was "dealing with people is a lot like digging for gold. When you go digging for gold you have to move tons of dirt. But when you go digging, you do not look for the dirt, you look for the gold. Believe me Bahrainis has a lot of gold in them and it is the job of our organization to dig for it.

In Bahrain we have faced economic crisis several times but this time around we have developed a few fault finders who go around telling everyone how bad things are and how the whole world has to be blamed. These people cause more tension due to themselves and those around them.

This reminds me the story of a king who asked his court to bring him something which makes him happy when he is sad and sad when he is happy. One of his wise men gave him a ring with words engraved on it "this too will pass". We have a generation that can do wonders, as long as we look for the positive and stop moaning about small set backs.

I read somewhere about a hunter who bought an amazing hunting horse. This horse could fly. To show his horse the owner invited his close friend to go riding with him.

All day long the horse flew valleys and mountains and rivers but the owner got no compliments from his friend. On the way back home he asked his friend if he did not notice



something unusual about the horse. The friend replied yes, by the way I was going to ask you, your horse doesn't run.

Our leadership has created the most pleasant atmosphere for us to live and work. Our children who are more educated and brought up in a more positive attitude that us have to capitalize on this and not to be like the person who was uneducated but doing a tremendous business selling burgers. He kept growing his business until his recently graduated son joined the business. The son told his dad, who had no time for television or gossip, whether he was aware of the recession that was coming. The father asked his son to tell him more about this "recession". The son said that the international situation was terrible. The domestic situation was even worse and we should prepare for bad times to come. The father thought that the son who is educated should not be taken lightly and immediately started cutting on his orders and expansion.

Soon the business started declining and fewer and fewer customers came to buy burgers and the sale started coming down rapidly. The father said "son, it is good that you warned me ahead of time that we are in a recession".

We have, with the guidance of our leadership, created an exceptionally beautiful country for our children.

As someone once said that god has blessed Bahrain with everything beautiful, you should be grateful for it. Yes we have a beautiful country with good laws, security, transportation, prestige, but you should have seen it when god had the whole thing for himself.

It is our leadership which were wise enough to give us this atmosphere of growth and prosperity.

What our children should understand is that all the success of the present has come with a story of failure of the past. They see the end result of a great deal of hard work, heart breaking efforts and a nostalgic dedication to the uplift of the family. They do not see the whole story and the bravery behind the story. In every story I see a Thomas Edison who in 1914 lost his factory due to a fire. At an old age Thomas Edison watched his life time efforts go up the



smoke. While he was watching the drama he said that there was a great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burnt up and we can start afresh. Soon after this disaster he invented the photograph and he was back in business.

Mirza Ghalib, the famous Indian poet when told, in hard times, about the burning of his poetry books said "All the mistakes of my past are burnt, now I will correct them."

What we face today is a small stumbling flock. Our children should convert that block into a strong foundation for the future.

Thomas Edison failed 10,000 times while inventing the light bulb. Henry Ford was broke at 40 years of age.

Henry 11 fired Lee Lacocca when he was 54 years old. Beethoven was told that he has no ear for music when he was young.

The only problem I see with the younger generation is that they look for instant gratification. I call them the pill generation. There is a pill for headache, a pill to relax, a pill to slim, as pill to solve problems, a pill to take in the morning for a successful day and a pill to take at night to put one to sleep when it was not a successful day. They plan from day to day. They have to plan for a hundred years and that is when they can create a graph with enough time to gauge their success and failure

and to learn from their experience and eventually learn to be proud of their achievements.

A father and son team were building the foundation of a great monument. The son used a bad brick amongst the thousands of bricks in the foundation. When the father stopped the son he said "father who will know in a thousand years, about this one brick. The father looked at him with sad eyes and said "son, you and I will know". In this one sentence the father taught the son the value of hard work, honesty, trustworthiness, integrity and sincerity.

The other important lesson in life is to have a goal and never to lose sight, with all ups and downs, of the goal. This is the only thing which gives a sense of direction. When you don't know your goal you do not know where you are going and when you do not know where you are going as the Cheshire cat told Alice in Wonderland "any road will get you there". This struggle to achieve the goal and the progressive realization of a worthy goal is success, and that is how we should evaluate our worthiness and that is when we shall be satisfied and rich. There may be disappointment, failures and success and a lot of risk taking, but we shall surely achieve the goals.

A man who owned a large rice field was asked why he did not plant rice. The farmer said he was afraid it will not rain. "Why", the man asked. "You do not use the land to rear farm animals". The farmer replied there are a lot of wild animals in the area and they might kill them. Then "what" they asked "did you do? The farmer replied "I played it safe".

It is the pursuit of this goal and not how much money you make on the way that will bring us happiness and satisfaction. There are many of the wealthiest people who over a period of time led themselves to disaster.

The greatest investor in wall street, Jessie Liverymou committed suicide. Leon Fraser, president of the bank of international settlement, committed suicide Charles Schab, president of the



largest steel company in debt until he died. Howard Hubson, President of the largest gas company went insane. Arthur Cutton, the richest commodity trader, died bankrupt. President of the New York stock exchange, none other than Richard Whitney was sent to jail. Albert Fall, a member of the president's cabinet was allowed to go back home and die in peace- alone.

Money can buy amusement but not happiness

A bed but not sleep
Food but not appetite
A house but not a home
Medicine but not health
Companions but not friends and family
Work but not loyalties

What we need to have in our homes and in our country is commitment to values and loyalty to values where every individual gives and sacrifices his utmost to hold this value because he believes in it. When these values are held with high esteem then no one can bring the house or the country apart.

We should have the vision to cultivate flowers but then the vision is short lived. We should have the vision to cultivate trees, but then the vision is for a few years. We should have the vision to cultivate people, and then the vision shall be forever.

We have to shed our reputation of a nation of great talkers and debaters and change it to honest truthful doers. "The truth is generally seen rarely heard and eventually always believed". Sir Christopher Wren was one of the most celebrated architects of renaissance and most of the time criticized as impractical in his design. Never once did he get offended or argued.

In 1688, he was employed to design a magnificent town hall for the city of West Minister. The mayor was not satisfied with his structure of the second floor and demanded that Wren add two extra columns for support. Wren knew that these two columns would serve no purpose and neither the argument with the Mayor would serve any purpose. He added the two columns and the mayor was exalted. Years later when workmen erected a high scaffold to carry out some repairs; they saw that the columns stopped just short of the ceiling. The columns were dummies but due to the wisdom of one, both men got what they wanted. Wren knew that by this problem solving way he satisfies the need of the present and posterity will understand that what was done was correct and for posterity.

When aiming for power, the aim to demonstrate your idea is that your opponents do not get defensive and are hence more open to persuasion. My most memorable project has been to establish Bahrain as a cricketing nation and it has taken us over 25 years to register the Bahrain Cricket Association. Now that this has eventually – officially – happened, we want to join everyone to create a cricketing show, with a lot of blessings from the ruling family, government, people equal to the Formula One event because only cricket with the amount of money involved in it can match the thrill of Formula One. What we need now is to increase the popularity of cricket in schools and to build three grass grounds. A small set up and one grass ground shall make Bahrain liable to receive US\$1 million from the International

Cricket Council.

An international tournament which is now not very far away can really boost our tournament and bring substantial indirect revenues.

In our family, we have two hobbies, one is our work which deals with creativity that is Architecture, and the other is to set up Bahrain as a cricketing Nation.



A LEGACY OF DESIGNS

Since 1975, Aref Sadeq Design Consultants contributed tremendously to the urban landscape of Bahrain. With an impressive portfolio comprising of countless multi-million dinar projects such as the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) HQ building in Sanabis, the Fontana Towers in Juffair, a series of Malls including the super luxurious Enma Mall in Riffa, the K Hotel in Juffair, and the soon-to-be completed Wyndham Hotel (Twisting Tower) in Bahrain Bay, Aref Sadeq Design Consultants (ASDC) holds a firm and established reputation in the field of architecture in the Kingdom.

ORIGINAL ARCHITECT

The family of ASDC founder, Aref Sadeq, has been in the Kingdom since 1935, during the time when Bahrain was a part of a bustling trading route of the three B's - Bahrain - Basra - Bombay. His father, Mohamed Sadeq (Late), had set up various businesses in the Kingdom involving trade and import and sent his son to one of the few schools at that time. When time came for University, Aref Sadeq at first decided he wanted to take up medicine and moved to the UK to study, but later on changed his course to Architecture. When he returned, his father insisted that he set up his own business and thus he founded a small architectural design office and started working on projects. Bahrain at that time was a small community; everyone was so close to each other like a family. Anyone who had a speciality in a field was sought for their help. So when people found out that he was an architect, they asked him for help to build their projects. One notable building was the old

Ashrafs showroom in Hooraa, which stood out with its modern design. It was the first building he designed in the Kingdom with escalators installed.

As time went by, more and more projects were handed to Aref Sadeq to design, and he wasn't just creating run-of-the-mill concepts, his reputation grew as his designs were distinctly recognised for their unique and radical façade, exquisite plans and fresh interiors. His portfolio became outstanding and exclusively distinctive and expanded throughout the years.

ONE-STOP SOLUTION

Aref Sadeq's business continued to flourish and thrive throughout the years. A key factor to his growing success is his company's diverse departments and areas that cover different aspects of building projects. Comprised of professionals in the construction industry, ASDC provides architectural, structural engineering, planning, interior designs, and electro-mechanical services. Its complete range of services gives them an edge in communicating with the clients and enables them to oversee full aspects of the project's progress, as well as provide maintenance consultancy and advise even after the project is completed. The design consultant firm is in the process of adding project management and technical and financial advisors as part of its service offering.

EXPANSION

Similarly, Aref Sadeq's sons Yaser Sadeq (BSc. in Architecture) & Fahad Sadeq (BSc. in



Business Development, Management, Finance (Banking), and Accounting), and daughter Suha Sadeq (BSc. in HR & Admin) returned from United States and worked for a private and government sector for two years. Then they followed their father's footsteps and started diversifying and expanding the business into various fields to continue the strong foundation and success set up by Aref Sadeq.

Fahad Sadeq says that the Kingdom has always been the leader in providing the most luxurious and high quality products and that his father, Aref Sadeq, has always been in the forefront of encouraging the set up of these new ventures/products in the Kingdom. These includes Real Estate Development and Management, Travel & Tourism, Specialized Interior Products such as: Sanitary Ware, Ironmongery, lifts and Escalators/Walkalators, Building Maintenance Units, Specialized Tiles, and other technically proven construction and finishing products from all over the world. He believes that part of being a successful entrepreneur is to dream big, hire the right people, speed up of response to the opportunity, a willingness to take risks, & a strong drive to continuously push the company forward.



CONGRATULATIONS



On the occasion of Bahrain's
National Day

We wish to convey warmest greetings and our good wishes to
His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa

The King of Bahrain
His Royal Highness

Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa

The Prime Minister
His Royal Highness

Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander
& First Deputy Prime Minister

And the people of the kingdom of Bahrain.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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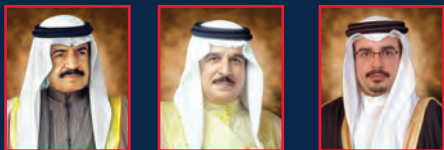
Delta Construction Company was established in 1982 and has been responsible for providing outstanding solutions in the fields of Civil and Electrical Engineering ever since. Our regular customers particularly value our commitment to maintain quality, engineering skills and timely completion of works. Ever since 1987, we have been a full-fledged Electrical Contractor providing quality service to residential, industrial, and commercial clients in Bahrain. From standard cabling, wiring and lighting fixtures to complete lighting designs or telecommunication infrastructure, from a private villa to entire rows of villas, high-tech residential or commercial multi storied buildings, shopping malls, schools, hospitals and health centres etc, our licensed engineers and expert technicians are dedicated to working with you to design and implement a solution that meets your needs. We have a Mechanical Department taking care of air-conditioning & ventilation, refrigeration, fire fighting, plumbing and drainage works for residential, commercial and industrial buildings. We do have a Swimming Pool Division, which is involved in the construction of new swimming pools, maintenance, repair works etc. with high expertise professionals. So, you get a total MEP solution required for the building under one roof.



Congratulations

On the occasion of Bahrain's

National Day



We wish to convey warmest greetings and our good wishes to

His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa,
The King of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa ,
The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa
The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander
& First Deputy Prime Minister

And the people of the kingdom of Bahrain.



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**Palace Electronics,
Managing Director,
Rakesh Sharma**






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HAPPY BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY

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Ibn Al-Nafees is a private hospital with a new vision in medical care. The hospital has a unique setup with multi-Specialty clinics run by Senior Consultants. It aims to be Bahrain's preferred private quality health care provider and is committed to providing high quality, ethical medical care at a reasonable and affordable cost. Ibn Al-Nafees has excellent, comfortable facilities for in-patient treatment with a mix of ward, single rooms or suites. The delivery suites are comfortable with the latest birthing aids available and the modern nurseries are close-by. Sophisticated, hi-tech operating theatres manned by skilled staff allow a wide range of surgical procedures to be performed. Radiology Department and the Laboratory have the latest



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IBN AL-NAFEES HOSPITAL CO. B.S.C.(C)

equipment that will ensure the highest degree of accuracy and safety. The radiology wing has BMD, CT, MRI, Ultrasound and Mammogram with guaranteed prompt reporting. A well-stocked Pharmacy is also available for the convenience of the patients. The Physiotherapy Department is manned by highly qualified, skilled personnel.

High quality services available at the hospital include; Artificial Kidney Unit, Bariatric Surgery, Cardiology, Chest & Pulmonary, Dentistry, Dermatology, Ear, Nose & Throat, EEG/EMG, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, General &



Laparoscopy Surgery, Genetics, High Dependency Unit, IVF, Nephrology, Neurology, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Oncology, Orthopedics, Pediatric & Neonatology, Pediatric Surgery, Physiotherapy, Plastic Reconstructive Surgery,

Psychiatry, Sleep Disorders, Urology (including ESWL) and twenty four hour Clinic. The Hospital receives strong support from the Government who are keen to develop private medical services to complement governmental facilities.



The Chairman, Board of Members and Members of Bahrain India Society extend their congratulations and best wishes to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
King of Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and
First Deputy Prime Minister

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the 44th BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY

P.O. Box 76118, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
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الجمعية البحرينية الهندية
Bahrain India Society



Photo taken at the presentation ceremony of the Long Service Awards. Mr. Wafa and Mr. Zubari with staff who have completed more than 20 years of service within the Group.

UNITAG GROUP: SCRIPTING SUCCESS

Unitag Group has played a pivotal role in Bahrain's development and modernisation and as a result, it stands tall and deep-rooted in its entrepreneurial success. Established from a humble foundation in August 1974, Unitag is proud to be a participant with the success story of Bahrain, with its moderate portfolio encompassing Aviation, Travel, Medical and Infrastructure sectors. Its visionary founder Jamil Amin Wafa had a responsibility to play an effective role amongst other business establishments in Bahrain to turn the Kingdom into an international and regional tourism and financial centre. The dream was fulfilled and Unitag established itself as an industry leader in Bahrain with more than 1,500 personnel collectively working for the Group of Companies that include namely Airport Technologies Equipment and Services, AREXCO, Magnum Imprint, Siemens (Bahrain), Uniskills, United Caterers and Contractors (UCC), World Travel Service (WTS), Magnum Travel Services (MTS) and Sunshine Tours. Airport Technologies and Equipment Services (ATES) division was established in 2005. The division focuses on import of airport ground handling equipment and spare parts, mechanical and electrical services, import and export of

engineering and survey items. The money exchange division, AREXCO, serves clients with an easy, user-friendly and economical system of delivering financial transactions internationally through their well-trained and customer friendly staff. Clients' marketing and advertising needs are supported by Magnum Imprint, the digital printing division. Magnum Imprint is dedicated to providing high quality colour printing with precise colour matching and perfect digital-to-paper solutions. Siemens plays an important role in key projects of infrastructure, healthcare, energy and industry, with over 35 years of successful partnership with Unitag. Among the major projects that Unitag coordinated and gave birth is the first large power station of 220 mgw built by Germany's Kraftwerk Union – Siemens in Riffa. Unitag ventured into industrial cleaning through Uniskills in 2008, which proved a successful franchise venture with Dallas-based cleaning company Janiking International, a global leader in commercial cleaning franchisees. Uniskills today, provides janitorial services for prime locations to more than 30 clients throughout Bahrain. Bahrain's leading industrial catering company United Caterers and Contractors (UCC) is also a division of Unitag. The industry leader supplies

industrial catering to hospitals, ministries, corporates and universities in Bahrain. World Travel Service is a one stop shop for all travel needs. Complemented by its subsidiary, Magnum Travel Services, the travel division offers a comprehensive range of travel products and services catered to both individuals and corporate clients. Sunshine Tours (SST), a dedicated and professional tour division, established in 1980 handles both inbound and outbound leisure travel for individuals and groups to provide professionally developed holiday packages and ideas to travellers, thus creating memorable and exciting holiday all within an identified budget. SST represents the Globus Family Brands and Thomas Cook. The management of Unitag Group firmly believes that employees are the main assets of the Group and emphasises that the Group's success is the core of the employees' loyalty and professionalism. The Group has maintained a good staff retention record and recently awarded a number of employees who completed a long service with the Group for ten years and above. The unique services rendered by Unitag Group of companies, which are focussed on diversified business have made them distinctive market leaders over the past 40 years.



يونيتاگ
UNITAG

Congratulations
and best wishes to

His Majesty **King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

His Royal Highness **Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**, the Prime Minister

His Royal Highness **Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**,
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the

National Day

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الحداد للمطبخ والمقاولات
United Caterers & Contractors

الخدمات الدولية للسياحة
WORLD TRAVEL SERVICE

Aidan Payne

Anybody who ever tells me that I'm lazy will definitely get a mouthful from me, as that is not what I am. I have lived in the Gulf for 38 years and am not ashamed to say that I have never been behind the wheel of a car or had a driving lesson in my life!!!

Of course at times particularly during hot weather getting to job locations/venues can be uncomfortable and sometimes problematic but mostly I seem to have managed over the years. Everyone is told that daily exercise helps keep your weight down, good for blood pressure, circulation and the threat of diabetes along with peace of mind!!!

Living in the Gulf both in UAE and mainly in Bahrain, the one thing that really infuriates me are the amount of people who drive to cold stores and honking horns to order items, particularly locals (who seem to be too lazy to get out of their vehicles), no wonder so many suffer from diabetes!!

Around 11 years ago I acquired my first Pedometer and read up that it is recommended that people should walk approximately 10,000 steps to keep health issues in control per day. My first test of the device was a holiday to Iran in 2004 and visit the major tourist sites in cities such as Esfahan, Shiraz and Tehran, following the Lonely Planet guide books, I think on an average day over a week or so I clocked up 15 to 20km of walking around and looking at churches, mosques and other cultural and historic sites. Prior to getting my visa to the mainland I stopped off in Kish Island and cycled 73kms around the famous cycle track.

Over the recent years I have travelled extensively to both parts of Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria (prior to the war in 2011) and spent hours walking and observing some great

POUNING THE PAVEMENTS OF BAHRAIN AND BEYOND



Aidan's old house in Jidhafs.

architectural and cultural sights. Some of my highlights are seeing Petra, Jerash and floating in the Dead Sea in Jordan, Palmyra and Crac De Chevaliers in Syria, Sidon and Tyre in Lebanon and even being at the baptism site of John and looking across the River Jordan into Israel and the Palestinian territories, along with walking along the UN 'Green Line' which divides

Cyprus.

My walking does not only happen in neighbouring countries, over the years and back in the 1980s I actually was stopped twice by the police after attending parties. First time, I had to get home on a Friday morning from Umm Al Hassam as I couldn't find my wallet and walked to my parents' home in Bani Jamra at the time wearing a 'Roman style toga' and only stopped at the top of Janabiya Highway by the police. Second time I went to a 'medieval night' at the old Dilmun Club near the Country Club and walking home after failing to secure a lift, wearing the costume including a plastic sword, a shield made out of an aluminium tray and wearing Gulf Air slippers, I was stopped and then escorted home by the police, they were great times though!! Recently I've got a bit nostalgic about Bahrain and have visited the Khamis Mosque for the first time in years and recently discovered from farmers in nearby Adhari a lush area with water pumped from 30 metres below for irrigation and agricultural reasons. I left Jidhafs to live in Adliya from 1995 but recently visited my old home of years ago and had a twinkle of tears in my eyes even though it looked rather dilapidated, the Barbar and Diraz Temples I had never seen for more than a decade and it was lovely seeing these great heritage places again dating back to the Dilmun times.

A visit and walk around Muharraq was really a memory jerker seeing the Shaikh Isa bin Ali House and Siyadi House and 'discovering' the Bahraini themed Al Qaysaraya Souk. Bahrain has lots of gems to be discovered and a little effort and walking can bring its rewards and satisfaction and good health, particularly now the weather is very favourable along with my trusty pedometer!!

Long live our country and its culture.
Wishing you many congratulations
on this national day.



Bahrain Pakistan Friendship Society

9th Floor, West Tower, Bahrain World Trade Center Isa Al Kabeer Ave
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On this National Day,
let us together cherish and celebrate the glory of our country.
Congratulations on Bahrain National Day celebrations.



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Warmest Greetings

to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Kingdom of Bahrain
His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister
His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khaifa, Crown Prince
Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the
occasion of the **44th BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY**



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Happy National Day

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THIS IS OUR BAHRAIN!



Mary Justine Todd

Mehr Jan

Our small island of Bahrain boasts many a beautiful spots! From the turquoise waters, and bustling souqs to the beauty and serenity of Islamic cultural centres, members of the American Women's Association (AWA) share stories of their favourite places around the island. Mary-Justine Todd, describes the

beauty and peace she finds on the beaches of Amwaj Island. "Within a few minutes distance from my home, I find myself surrounded by silent, blue waters. Swimming from the beaches of Najma to the sands of Tala, my heart calms, and I remember how lucky I am to live in this little Gulf oasis. I've passed many happy days relaxing on the shore searching for seashells, on the beaches and patios surrounded by friends and pink bougainvillea, or

“ Within a few minutes distance from my home, I find myself surrounded by silent, blue waters. Swimming from the beaches of Najma to the sands of Tala, my heart calms, and I remember how lucky I am to live in this little Gulf oasis. I've passed many happy days relaxing on the shore searching for seashells, on the beaches and patios surrounded by friends and pink bougainvillea, or even on a paddle board leisurely paddling from shore to shore. ”

even on a paddle board leisurely paddling from shore to shore. Remembering the frosty winters of the American mid-west, I am even more grateful for the endless summers spent on our little golden beaches. Knowing that my regular, sunny, beautiful beach days are days for which many other people around the world long and dream of on a far-away vacation, I remain eternally grateful for our sunny beautiful Bahrain!”



Lisa Wahba tells how she was instantly impressed upon arriving in Bahrain, especially by many of the events happening at the beautiful Bahrain National Theater. "Since arriving in Bahrain in June 2009, I was immediately impressed by the variety of cultural events offered through the Ministry of Culture's seasonal programmes, under the visionary leadership of Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al-Khalifa. I was especially excited to learn of the National Theatre, that eventually opened on November 12, 2012, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Every nuance of the

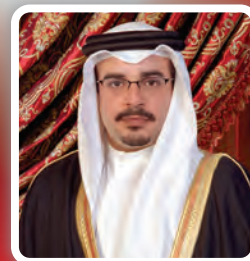
theatre is inspired by the heritage of Bahrain. The theatre's proximity, adjacent to the sea, symbolises Bahrain's link between land and sea. The ceilings of traditional Bahraini homes inspire the intricately woven ceiling, while the modern and delicate curves contrast with its elm-covered walls, resemble pearling dhows, and the 1,001-seat auditorium pays homage to the tales of 1,001 Arabian Nights. This crowning achievement in the Kingdom's longstanding efforts to enrich and develop local culture, makes it my favorite place to visit in Bahrain."



Lisa Wahba



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“Nothing shouts Bahrain as majestically as Riffa Fort does! Every time I have visitors, this is the first place I think about taking them. Stories, images, colours, all take us back in time. I feel as if I were living back when the crusaders rode their horses through the sands of Dilmunia, as if we instantly travel back into time, to the wild and beautiful ancient Arabian nights.”



Lia Wright

Liz Shaw paints a vivid picture of her favourite place on the island – the Manama Souq! “For me, this is the most wonderful, colourful, amazing albeit sometimes a little smelly place on this magnificent island. It seems impossible to enter this magical place and not be swept up completely into the Arabian world! Through touch, taste, sight, sound and even smell... all the senses lead you to make special memories as they linger on the mind. Every sensation leads you to the heart of this beautiful culture; family, friends and home! Embrace it all and thank you Bahrain!”



Liz Shaw

Lia Wright talks of her most cherished Bahraini spot. “Nothing shouts Bahrain as majestically as Riffa Fort does! Every time I have visitors, this is the first place I think about taking them. Stories, images, colours, all take us back in time. I feel as if I were living back when the crusaders rode their horses through the sands of Dilmunia, as if we instantly travel back into time, to the wild and beautiful ancient Arabian nights. Those walls have so much to tell. The wooden door carvings are like Braille, increasing our senses on the touch. The Saffron café serves a typical Bahraini breakfast and the endless view of the desert while enjoying this delicacy makes my mind wonder...how lucky we are to have such a symbol of culture and history still alive.”

“For me, Manama Souq is the most wonderful, colourful, amazing albeit sometimes a little smelly place on this magnificent island. It seems impossible to enter this magical place and not be swept up completely into the Arabian world! Through touch, taste, sight, sound and even smell... all the senses lead you to make special memories as they linger on the mind. Every sensation leads you to the heart of this beautiful culture; family, friends and home!”



“ One of the most wonderful things is that the cultural hall is not just for fancy formal functions, but for private parties, small events and lectures too. It’s beautiful to see a place such as this open to all within the Bahraini community. ”

And finally, Diana Raia defines her gratefulness for having a wondrous place like the Isa Cultural Centre at our finger tips. “The Isa Cultural Centre is a fascinating institution. At AWA, one of our goals is to promote cultural understanding, thus the Isa Cultural Centre encompasses much of what we stand for. One of the most wonderful things is that the cultural hall is not just for fancy formal functions, but for private parties, small events and lectures too. It’s beautiful to see a place such as this open to all within the Bahraini community. The magnificent library also boasts thousands of books in many languages and it’s brilliant to know it’s all there for us to use and enjoy. The Isa Cultural Centre is physically beautiful on the inside and out, and also even more beautiful because of the kind and open Bahraini spirit that it embodies!”



Diana Raia



MEET THE FIRST LADY OF GCC TELECOM INDUSTRY

By Mehr Jan

“ It’s a big step from having the responsibility of one division of a company as a general manager to having the responsibility for all the divisions of a company as the CEO ”

Tapping into the largely male-dominant territory, Batelco’s CEO, Muna Al Hashemi is the first woman to hold the leadership role of a telecommunications company in the GCC region. She has paved the way for many, to dream big and strive hard. She spoke to *DT News*, on her significant role, how she got there and how does it build a stronger momentum for women empowerment.

Q. Your role as the CEO for Batelco has been a major turning point when it comes to women empowerment. What have been your guiding force and your motivational tool to make it to the top?

Ms.Muna: My guiding force has been the culture of discipline within my family. When I was growing up, hard work and aiming high was encouraged and when I decided I wanted to study electronic engineering at the university I was supported every step of the way. Similarly, from the time I entered Batelco in 1994, I was lucky to work alongside management which encouraged and motivated me to learn and grow and apply for various job roles that became available, and in this way I gained experience in a number of different departments.

Q. The three elements you think every person needs to excel in their job?

Ms.Muna: Commitment and respect, hard work and knowledge seeking, lastly team spirit.

Q. What has been the most challenging task in making the transition from your previous post to Batelco’s CEO?

Ms.Muna: It’s a big step from having the responsibility of one division of a company as a general manager to having the responsibility for all the divisions of a company as the CEO. However, as I have been with Batelco for many years and have been part of the executive team for many years I already had an in-depth knowledge of all divisions and the people involved. Having a very supportive team of senior executives made the transition very smooth.

Q. How can we change the framework pertaining to women taking leading roles in job positions, usually dominated with the male gender?

Ms.Muna: The framework is already changing with females taking leading roles in industries that were once considered the domain of males. An increasing number

Ms. Al Hashemi



of girls are studying technical subjects at school and university and seeking out careers in engineering, architecture and telecoms. Also, leading companies such as Batelco are equal opportunities employers, giving the chance to all employees to climb the career ladder based on their skills and abilities and not dependent on their gender.

Q. Batelco is the official sponsor for the Bahrain International Airshow 2016. Is this alignment important to the Company?

Ms.Muna: As the leading integrated communications solutions provider and a key national organisation, it was natural that we would join hands with a major international event such as the Bahrain International Airshow. The 2016 show, to be held in January, will be our 4th time to be involved. The event does so much to promote Bahrain on the world stage and demonstrates to international investors that even though our country is small in size, it is large when it comes to innovative technology, world class communications, modern infrastructure and welcoming environment for all nationalities.

Q. In this day and age when technology plays a leading role in every business model, do you think it should be integrated as an important subject to education and business training and development?

Ms.Muna: Definitely! It is crucial to be tech savvy these days, and while many schools feature some aspects as part of their curriculum I believe it needs to be much more part of the key subjects, as important as reading, writing and math, and included in the curriculum from the early years at school.

Q. In the past five years, what have been the most promising and effective campaigns and initiatives introduced by Batelco?

Ms.Muna: On an ongoing basis, Batelco rolls out new products, services and solutions. Being innovative is very important to us and we strive to be ahead of competitors in bringing the latest devices or services to our customers. Earlier this year Batelco was first to launch VoLTE (Voice over LTE) and another key first was our launch of 4G LTE in 2013, both of which are effective initiatives, but only a small sample of our extensive portfolios. We are proud to be leading in fibre with the fastest Broadband speed to home of up to 300 Mbps.

Q. Has Batelco embedded international

technological breakthroughs and global connectivity advances to provide better services to its customers?

Ms.Muna: Yes, Batelco has always been an innovator and leader in Bahrain's telecom sector. As new technologies become available internationally, we strive to deliver them for our customers to ensure they have an access to world-class products. Furthermore, Batelco has an access to global links that ensures connectivity to all areas of the world and to provide competitive rates for our customers whilst they are roaming, Batelco has signed agreements with hundreds



BTECH sponsorship.

of international service providers.

Q. When it comes to managing the company's human resources, how much significance have you attached to investing in this segment?

Ms.Muna: Batelco appreciates the value of its people and consequently invests heavily to ensure that training and development programmes are in place and in addition Batelco's employees are provided with an excellent range of benefits. Several classroom based courses take place annually at Batelco's Training Centre located at our headquarters in Hamala. Additionally, e-Learning with hundreds of topics available, can be accessed by all staff who are encouraged to explore any subject area that interests them. Among the many benefits for Batelco employees are health insurance for them and their spouses and children, a saving scheme, PC and phone installment schemes, fully equipped gyms and excellent sports facilities.



Ms. Al Hashemi with Ericsson officials



Al Rahma Batelco cheque presentation



MORNING SCENE FROM SITRA CORNICHE



SITRA MORNING SUN



BUS AT MUHARRAQ



SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SALMAN PARK

THE SERENE SIDE...

Bahrain is beautiful. Irrespective of its small size, the pearls island offers innumerable frames of beauty.

It is said "One look is worth a thousand words". In fact on the spot sketches become more describing and forceful because it has the human touch over the mechanical precision of camera shots. This thought was the real drive behind my expedition for the on the spot sketches on the pearl island. "It can be covered in a day's time" is what you hear from your friends when you first land here. But if you are willing you can easily find wonderful frames and refreshingly new 'Bahrain's' every time you explore into. It is an attempt to showcase some of the colourful frames which I did freeze with my charcoal pencil and pastels. The search for new frames of beautiful Bahrain continues...



BAHRAIN SKYLINE FROM SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SALMAN PARK CORNICHE



EARLY MORNING AT TUBLI



MIGRATORY BIRDS AT TUBLI BAY



OIL WELL ALONG THE HIGHWAY ON THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE

HUNTING DOGS OF THE SKIES



O P Sreesadan

Falcon has always been regarded as a symbol of force and courage. Falconry is an integral part of desert life, which has been practised in the Gulf countries for centuries. Now falconry is a popular sport in the Middle East with 50 per cent of the world's falconers coming from this region. Falcons are fast-flying hunters, supremely equipped for attacking preys in the air. Falcons have long wings and tails, similar in shape to kites, but they have greater sense of power. The falcon is the national bird of United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman and several other countries, recognising the importance of falconry in their tradition and culture. Falconry, like camel racing and horse riding, is a traditional quest in most countries of the Middle East. The primary purpose of falconry was hunting for fresh meat. Falconry, once an important means to supplement diet of inhabitants of the deserts of Middle East countries, is now enjoyed more as a traditional sport of hunting. Falconry competitions are held in every Gulf country. In Bahrain registration is open until December 25 for the Third Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Falconry

Championship near the Al Areen Wildlife Sanctuary in the Southern Governorate which will be held over four stages/weekends next month. Organisers are finalising preparations for this event which enhances Bahrain's position in promoting the continuity of traditional sport, along with local heritage and culture with the support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and a symbol for future generations to embrace.

According to Dr. Zubair Medammal, a scholar who has studied falcons extensively, falcons should be given extra care as they are under threat. This falconologist was in Bahrain few months back to shoot a documentary titled 'Falcons and Falconry in the Arabian Gulf' in English, Arabic and Malayalam languages. "My team has already finished shooting of the 45-minute documentary segments in Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. After finishing the shooting, our team will move to UAE for its finishing work at Dubai Media City," he said. Dr. Medammal said he will produce 100,000 DVDs of the documentary, which will then be distributed among educational institutions in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as well as in India free of charge. "My mission is to bring the idea home that

PICS BY THOMAS VARGHESE





falcons and falconry are part of Arab culture and heritage, and make the younger generation aware of this," he said.

Dr. Medammal is the first and only Indian to get a doctorate in the study of falcons. He has created a website for providing information on falcons: www.falconpedia.com.

Falcons form a very well specialised and spectacular group of hunting birds and are exhaustively termed as 'hunting dogs of the skies'. The genus Falcon is found in almost all parts of the world. They are seen particularly in such places as tundra, desert, tropical forests and all regions, wherever prey is available. Falcons are strong, fast fliers with great aerial agility. They seldom soar in the manner of hawks. The peregrine has been clocked at 290 km/h (180 mph) in a stoop, or dive. This speed and agility make falcons successful hunters of birds, reptiles, and small mammals. Although falcons strike or grasp their prey with their sharp claws, they generally kill the captured prey with their beaks. The short-winged hawks kill with their claws, a specialist at the Falcon Hospital in Bahrain told *DT News*.

Falcon hospital in Bahrain

Falcon hospital offers the finest and best quality of healthcare for falcons in and outside Bahrain. The interest in falcons' health comes from the importance of preserving the Arab heritage of falconry, being one of the most important cultural heritages of the Kingdom and the Arabian Gulf. The hospital examines falcons when they are brought to Bahrain for the first time, either wild falcons or the ones hatched in captivity, to make sure they are healthy in order to maintain good health of all birds in the Kingdom.

It also issues passports to identify falcons and enable owners to move them across the border in line with international laws governing the movement of endangered birds. The hospital conducts periodic check-up of the falcons in the Kingdom to make sure they are healthy and that they receive proper care by their owners. The hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment to examine blood and stool for the diagnosis of internal and external parasites such as worms and insects. The equipment include: the microscope, blood test machine and parasites test and toxicity testing machine. Samples are taken from the falcons to be tested and to make sure they are clean from any bacterial or viral diseases or if there is a need for surgery. Falcons are transferred to the Operation Room, which is equipped with modern surgical equipment such as the scope and electrical surgery and sterilisation equipment to perform open or laparoscopic surgeries, such as extracting lung worms and repairing fractures.

All falcons - for one reason or another- will break some feathers, which is why they repair or replace them with sound feathers of the same size and colour from their Feathers Bank, which includes all the important feathers that are common to be broken. At the hospital, there is a ward of five rooms designed to accommodate falcons that need to stay in for monitoring and treatment throughout the day under the supervision of doctors and technicians.



My team has already finished shooting of the 45-minute documentary Segments in Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. After finishing the shooting our team will move to UAE for its finishing work at Dubai Media City. 100,000 DVDs of the documentary will then be distributed among educational Institutions in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as well as in India free of charge.

— Dr. Zubair Medammal



Dr. Zubair Medammal



EXPLORING BAHRAIN

Transit visitors to Bahrain for even just half a day or so, can avail themselves the chance to visit some of the tourist attractions of the Kingdom by using the new Red Man bus service at a cost of 500 fils and cutting out expensive taxi fares.

DT reporters **Aidan Payne** and **Melvin Mendonca** did just that to prove it is possible. In eight hours and armed with a good map and a local guide book, we managed seven attractions in the Northern and Muharraq Governorates. We met up firstly in Isa Town and each paid for our all-day ticket, first

stopping off near Khamis Mosque on the Shaikh Salman Highway, what took our attention first was the lush greenery of the palm groves of Adhari.

We discovered after meeting local farmers that the water being pumped to irrigate the fields was coming from 30 metres below ground and it tasted really sweet.

Khamis Mosque, one of the oldest of its kind in the Gulf, was open and some exploring was also done.

A 20 minute or so walk through the town of Iidhafs took us to Budaiya Highway and the bus journey on to

Barbar Temple and Diraz Temple dating back to Bahrain's glorious Dilmun period around BC2,800.

Our next journey was back to Manama Bus Terminal and the A1 bus to the Airport, we stopped at the Muharraq terminal and after a short walk visited Shaikh Isa bin Ali House and nearby Siyadi House.

Concluding the tour we had a quick look at the small Al Qaysaraya Souk before heading back to the office.

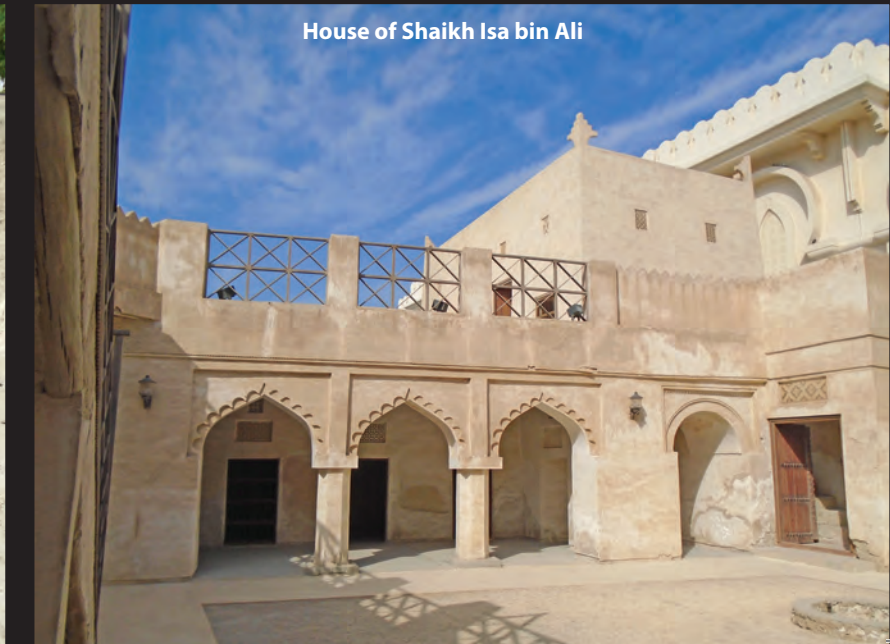
In all, our journey took around eight hours, visited seven touristic places and walked around 15 kilometres in total.

Manama Bus Terminal



Barbar Temple

House of Shaikh Isa bin Ali



VIA PUBLIC BUSES A RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION

Aidan Payne

The new Red Bus public transport service is certainly a step up in the right direction to try and at least try to alleviate the chronic transport and vehicle situation in Bahrain. This new system has over 140 buses available since inauguration in February and is now ploughing many new routes as never before. At 500 fils for a day pass, you can not go wrong and compared with those horrendous old buses years ago, when one was crammed in like sardines!!, it is a pleasant change.

Before Man took over in February we had an upgraded bus service CARS which was much better than the previously awful Tata bus, but with spacious seating and air conditioning it makes for a more pleasant journey with the new bus company. I recently tried to use the bus service to visit a number of tourist sites in the Manama/ Budaiya Highway and the Muharraq region. Very much like the UK and particularly

areas such as my home place Anglesey in North Wales and ancestral home Liverpool, one has to do a fair amount of walking to visit tourist attractions.

The nice thing about the new transport system is that it covers many more areas and roads compared with Anglesey which is roughly the same size as Bahrain.

Price wise, you can't beat the bus service here as a one-way on Anglesey is around BD1.600 and a day pass around BD3.300 and as for Liverpool it is around BD3 for a day pass.

Obviously like any place in any country, you need to walk to a certain building or attraction if it is off the beaten-track but that is healthy in itself!!

My positive to the new bus service is that places like Bahrain City Centre and the Seef and Aali Malls are now accessible more to people and not getting ripped off by excessive taxi fares.

Other places which seem more accessible are the areas in the south of the Kingdom such as Souq Al Waqif, Awali and the

magnificent fort in Arad.

I do have some criticism though, if a passenger wants to stop at the Bait Quran or the Bahrain National Museum on Al Fateh Highway area, they either have to jump off at Ras Romman or the British Embassy (depending) on the route or wait till they cross the causeway into Muharraq.

Timings are another thing as drivers I spoke to said we have the morning, afternoon and evening rush and our schedules are always messed up at these times as too much traffic is moving.

Etiquette is another thing that needs improving, you get some locals and many Asians who try to jump the queue to get on first and need to learn some manners!!!

On the whole I am satisfied with the new service and is in many ways cheaper and more efficient than back home, particularly in rural Anglesey!!

I do hope it won't be long before we have an up and running Metro system here in Bahrain just like they have in Dubai.



Congratulations and best wishes to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion
of the **44th National Day**. From all at **BFC**.

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HAVE PATIENCE, THEY ARE NOT SUPERMEN

Melvin Mendonca

“For Indian expats, 500 fils for a day ticket is not at all costly, as they will have to shell out almost same amount in their home country. But the frequency of buses as well as sticking to the schedule is still a matter of concern for Bahraini buses. This is mainly due to heavy traffic in the peak hours.”

What is new for Bahrain in 2015? It is definitely the red buses rolled out in the mid February, creating a buzz throughout the Kingdom.

These buses have brought enough joy in the face of low-income group people, making their journey convenient. Though expats make maximum use of the bus transport, of late, Bahrainis can also be seen using red buses extensively.

But our aim was to explore the historic places of Bahrain, via red buses. For all that we had to spend just 500 fils for an all day pass.

For an Indian belonging to a middle-class family, buses and trains are part and parcel of life and the use of cars is still a matter of luxury for them. A metro city like Bangalore has 6,423 buses, which carry five million passengers per day. Here also you can travel throughout the day with just Rs 75 (almost 450 fils) and the advantage is, the frequency of buses is very high. Almost a similar system is in practice in other Indian metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, making the daily travelling easier. Though the fuel rate is costlier compared to Bahrain, the bus transport companies in India have been able to provide service at a cheaper rate.

For Indian expats, 500 fils for a day ticket is not at all costly, as they will have to shell out almost same amount in their home country. But the frequency of buses as well as sticking to the schedule is still a matter of concern for Bahraini buses. This is mainly



Manama bus stop



Siyadi House



due to heavy traffic in the peak hours. As the bus drivers admit, early morning, afternoon and evening are the busy hours for them, making it difficult (and sometimes impossible) to maintain timings. Yes, it is frustrating sometimes to wait for hours for a bus at the bus stop, especially when the temperature is high. But we need to understand the ground realities. Moreover, it is high time to appreciate the concern of Bahraini authorities to provide a best transport system to its people at a

cheaper rate. After all it is a trial and error method. There is no doubt that the system is improving day by day. In the beginning of this year, there were just 35 buses. Now there are 140 odd buses, plying across the Kingdom until midnight. There might be delays. But there is an assurance that the buses will definitely take you to your place. This is what our bus journey proved. The journey from Isa Town to Manama, via Khamis Mosque, then a walk through Jidhafs to the Budaiya Highway and

onto the Barbar and Diraz Temples, then to Shaikh Isa bin Ali House and Siyadi House in Muharraq, took us almost eight hours in red buses and 15km of walking in total to these sites and exploring. That too with just a ticket of 500 fils. And of course, the buses provide you a platform to interact with people from different cultures and background. Where else will you get such an opportunity?



CONGRATULATIONS to
His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa
His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa
His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Crown Prince,
Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier
and the People of The Kingdom of Bahrain on the Occasion of
44th NATIONAL DAY



ميغا مارت
MEGA MART

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 Galali : 17 32 00 25 ♦ Segayya (Al Hayat Shopping Centre) : 17 00 30 61
 MegaMart Express : 17 382 511



بابا سونز
Babasons

Hamad Town : 17 412 563 ♦ Salmaniya : 17 252 624



ماكرو مارت
Macro Mart

West Riffa Mall : 17 650 075 ♦ Saar : 17 225 818

LITTLE INDIA FUELS HOPE

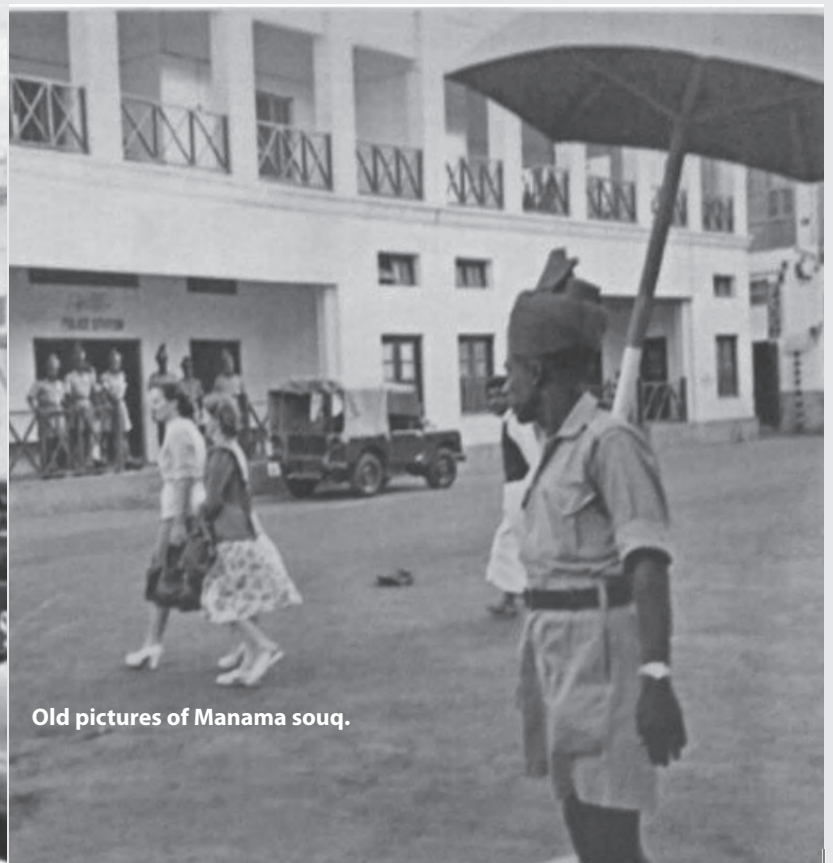
Mohammed Zafran

The businessmen at Manama traditional market are brimming with enthusiasm, thanks to the 'Little India in Bahrain' project which is beginning to revitalise the souq.

The project is exactly what is needed to bring the souq back to life, according to the businessmen at the market. Initiated and supported by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), the project celebrates and documents the contribution of the Indian community to the history and progress of Bahrain as well as to boost cultural tourism in the Kingdom. As part of the project, historical areas in Manama souq are being beautified and made to be one of the top attractions in the country for Bahraini and expatriate residents as well as tourists from all over the world.



Visitors at an exhibition at Manama souq.



Old pictures of Manama souq.



Painting and decoration works in progress.



Buildings being painted.

Manama traditional market might only be a shadow of what it was in the past, but it still has a huge potential to attract tourists, said Manama Traditional Market Committee Deputy Chairman, Mahmood Al Namliti. He praised the creative approach of the Little India in Bahrian project and the keenness of the authorities in making the souq more attractive. "I believe the project has a number of benefits, it is good for Bahrain and India relationship, it is good for the Indian residents in Bahrain and it's also good for Bahrainis. I am sure this will bring tourism from the Gulf as well as other parts of the world. This is a welcome change, the Manama souq had been crying out for a new project since a long time. The souq has a lot of potential, we just need to promote it with the right projects and programmes. I believe this project will bring the souq back to life, we may not reach the glory of the past but we can try," he said.

Shahid Abdul Razzaq, who owns a tailoring shop in the souq, praised the initiative stating that it was something the businessmen in the souq had been calling out since a long time. "Manama souq was the main market place in Bahrain and one of the only shopping destinations. It was a great time of prosperity for the souq and it had lively atmosphere. Now there are various shopping malls and different areas that have come up with a bunch of shops," he said. "We are delighted that such an initiative has been taken up. We are hoping that this project would make wonders for the souq and for the people here. For the past many years, the mood in souq was dull. Now there is hope among the people here, there is an atmosphere of optimism that was not there before," he added.

Having been a resident of Bahrain and a businessman at the souq for many decades, Farid Kumar, said that he was excited about the project. "My father came here in 1945 before the partition of India," he said, adding, "This project is great, we are all really excited. It will help our business also when this project becomes a reality."

“Earlier, Manama souq was the main marketplace in Bahrain and one of the only shopping destinations. It was a great time of prosperity for the souq and it had lively atmosphere. Now there are various shopping malls, shopping complexes in the Kingdom,” said Mr. Razzaq. “We are delighted that such an initiative has been taken up. We are hoping that this project would make wonders for the souq and for the people here. For the past many years, the mood in souq was dull. Now there is hope among the people here, there is an atmosphere of optimism that was not there before,” he added.

The project includes restoration and renovation works of some buildings mainly located in Al Hamradi Avenue and Al Muatasim Avenue as well as the creation of a small public space in this area. The public space will serve as a place for gatherings, relaxation and even trade.

Little India in Bahrain Project Director,

Frances Stafford said that the project highlighted the cultural plurality that Bahrain choose to celebrate. "This shows the plural society of Bahrain, where everyone is allowed to practise his/her religion, where everyone blends well with each other and lives together," she said.

"The Indian community has contributed to Bahrain's economy, its infrastructure, as well as its social and cultural history. Vintage photographs of the area will bring to life the vital aspects of this historic account. This project will celebrate the great history and the enduring fruitful relationship between Bahrainis and Indians and show the continued commitment to strengthening these precious ties," the project director said. "The main push is to recognise cultural tourism and its importance within Bahrain

due to its exceptional archaeological wealth, historical past (such as pearling and the Muharraq and Manama souqs), intangible cultural heritage such as music and oral traditions and of course the contemporary culture which is supported in the visual and performing arts," she added.





FOR YOUR BEAUTIFUL HOME

Beautify your home with seasons' stunning autumn-inspired home decor accents. It is time again to enjoy the autumn evenings as the leaves rustle, crickets chirp, and the temperatures are just right for halter dresses or chinos. Along with this, bring in the sense of renewal in your home with the touch of season's simple trends.

The Home Store guides you to make the most of the season by decorating your space with lovely, autumn-inspired home decor that will breathe new life into your home and have you singing autumn's praises.

Established in December 2006, the Home Store, a home-grown concept store is the fastest growing home furniture and furnishings brand in Bahrain. The concept has been designed and developed keeping in mind modern-day home décor needs and changing customer lifestyles.

With over 10,000 high quality products; the Home Store offers over 50 styles each in living, dining and bedroom concepts. The store is divided in convenient sections to make the customer's shopping experience a comfortable and enjoyable one.

With so much focus on the great outdoors, we easily dismiss simple seasonal ideas that can add and freshen up our homes. By adding a few autumn

accents to our décor, we can easily de-stress ourselves over getting everything perfect this autumn.

Everything a home needs is at the home store

- Living room concepts
- Dining room collection
- Bedroom sets
- Junior home
- Lighting
- Picture gallery
- Artistic rugs
- Gifts
- Home Décor
- Kitchenware
- Bath shop
- Bedding
- Home office
- Garden & Pool side concepts

With a wide selection of bedding and bath accessories; exquisite lamps, artistic rugs and attractive picture frames; kitchen and tableware – Home Store has got everything that will make any home-maker smile with pride.

Candles, pots, vases, flowers and frames complete the array of home décor accessories offering

consumers a vast choice of attractive gift ideas.

Service with a smile

Smart, smiling, well-trained staff makes shopping at the home store a pleasant experience. The home store has a Customer Service and a Home Delivery department, which takes care of Point of Sale and Post-sale needs of customers.

Change textiles throughout

Fabrics are a key element in the décor of your home. Light breezy fabrics add the touch of light autumn feel, rather than heavy ones. Drapes that utilize chiffons or organza add instant oomph and personality to a room. Crisp linens with light shades and small prints are suitable for the autumn look and will further enhance the fresh feel in a room. A simple trick to bring a change in your home is to change throw-pillows with bright colors, big and bold floral prints, table cloths and sheets in the bedrooms or a contrasting throw on the bed or sofa add an extra texture to your room.

Slipcover

Slipcovers are a great way to renew tired furniture and add a dash of fresh colour to a room. Ready your home for the autumn with sweet autumn coloured slipcovers tailored to fit into your home. Linen is a great choice of fabric for the season.

Serve in style

Autumn entertainment can be fun and easy with the stunning autumn dinner sets and serving trays. When you serve in style add coloured glassware, bright placemats and matching napkins to your setting, no guest will be able to resist your tempting delicacies and warm welcome.

Water and nature inspired accents

Make a statement with refreshing cool accessories inspired by nature. Indoor plants, a small water fountain at the entrance, and greens and blues carry the elements of nature in your home. Casually arranged flowers, free and wild as they would grow outdoors extend the carefree spirit of nature indoors. Place some fragrant herbs, such as mint, rosemary and sage, or a bowl of soft scented potpourri in the bedroom and enjoy the aroma all night long. The mélange of exciting designs, textures and colors available at The Home Store is sure to reflect your taste – from classic to contemporary; the furniture brand carries it all. The range is not only huge but also contemporary and aesthetic.

Your home at 'The Home Store'

The fastest growing home furniture and furnishings brand in the Middle East, The Home Store is a brand that's synonymous with quality and elegance. Incorporating the new look in your

home is a great way to make sure your home stays fresh and trendy.

At the Homes Store, choose the right essentials that suit your personality and lifestyle requirements, all under one roof. At times even changing only the nuts and bolts can give your home a treatment in the latest drifts of fashion. Visit the Home Store at Bahrain Mall and choose from over 10,000 products that go in making your house a home. Established in December 2006, the Homes store, a home-grown concept store is the fastest growing home furniture and furnishings brand in Bahrain. The concept has been designed and developed keeping in mind modern-day home décor needs and changing customer lifestyles. The furniture available at 'the home store' is modern, contemporary, stylish and functional, offering a wide choice of wood finishes and shades. With over 10,000 high quality products; the home store offers over 50 styles each in Living, Dining and Bedroom concepts. The store is divided in convenient sections to make the customer's shopping experience a comfortable and enjoyable one.

Think home. Think The Home Store
Store Details:
The Home Store
Bahrain Mall (Near Geant)
Manama, Bahrain
Tel: 17556001.

the home store Wishes

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Kingdom of Bahrain
His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister
His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince,
Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the
BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY

the home store
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Bahrain Mall (Geant) Tel: 17556001 Daily Timings: 10 am to 10 pm

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN FROM THE RITZ

“2015 has been an exciting year with many innovative projects such as the introduction of the ((chime)) technology, which is a mobile app designed specifically for meeting planners. It allows our clients to schedule services and make real-time requests from their fingertips.”



H - Christian Zandonella, General Manager the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain



DT News discussed with the General Manager of the Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain, H - Christian Zandonella about the hospitality sector in the Kingdom, the hotel's difference from its competitors, required changes in the tourism sector and the plans ahead for the Ritz.

Excerpts: Kindly tell us what you think about the Bahrain hospitality industry: Its strengths and opportunities as well as probable threats?

I think the strength of Bahrain hospitality is the history of Bahrain as well as the people of Bahrain, who are incredibly hospitable. There are tons of opportunities, focusing on beaches and cultural history Bahrain will be the destination of the future in the Gulf. Our threats as always remain the global economy.

How does the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain differentiate itself from its competitors? What is the positioning of the hotel and its USP?

The Ritz-Carlton, Bahrain is the only city resort in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with a beautiful pristine beach of almost two kilometres. We are not only catering to corporate clients and MICE groups, but also to the leisure segment. What makes our hotel so unique is the legacy that our Ladies and Gentlemen (this is how we call our employees in the Ritz-Carlton service culture) have built over so many years. We pride ourselves in offering unmatched levels of service experience and creating the Ritz-Carlton

guests for life.

What would you like to see changed in Bahrain tourism sector? What positives such a change will bring?

When we meet our customers and international partners in the tourism shows, we are often asked about the destination-management companies, and how they can reach out to them to promote the destination. I believe the latest updates from the tourism authority of Bahrain are very encouraging especially with the intent to launch a rebranding campaign of the destination in the international market. The focus will be to showcase the attributes of Bahrain as a destination and the uniqueness of the local culture. I personally believe the destination has everything to lure more tourists and compete with the regional and international tourists destinations.

Tell us about the upcoming events?

With the festive season approaching, we have many exciting events lined up both for grown-ups and the little ones. We started the programme on Tuesday, December 1, with our traditional Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year's Christmas tree is the largest since many years. We were encouraged by last year's response where we had more than 600 families flocking to our lobby with their little ones. Santa Claus will keep our little guests engaged while the Italian band, Caffe Concerto Strauss, will be performing live music to round up the magical experience. This festive season, the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will be at our gardens & we are excited to welcome our guests. In Addition to this, we have conceptualised a unique lighting experience to commemorate Bahrain National Day Celebration. The sky umbrella project – an artwork installation of more than 1000 umbrellas on our driveway complemented with 2D human figures to reflect and integrate gracefully with the landscape will really entertain our guests arriving at the hotel.

What are your inspirations and your success formula?

I began my career in hospitality as an apprentice in Munich, Germany, before joining the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company in 2004. After having worked at the brand's properties in Cancun, Grand Cayman, the Hotel Arts, Barcelona and Dorado Beach, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, I arrived in Bahrain in 2014 as the



general manager of this stunning property. I draw inspiration from the Ladies and Gentlemen of the company, their passion, dedication and their keen desire to provide unique personal experiences for our guests. My success formula is to always keep in mind that 'there is no finish line' when it comes to creating service excellence.

**What are the programmes for 2016?
How 2015 fared for you?**

2015 has been an exciting year with many innovative projects such as the introduction of the ((chime)) technology, which is a mobile app designed specifically for meeting planners. It allows our clients to schedule services and make real-time requests from their fingertips. From a culinary perspective, we have re-launched our Italian restaurant, Primavera, by partnering up with Michelin starred Chef Oliver Glowig. Glowig has wonderfully transformed the signature restaurant into a Trattoria Moderna, where guests can enjoy traditional Italian food at a Michelin star level using products of highest quality. Furthermore, we opened up Café Venissa this November. The concept of this restaurant has been inspired by the famous Venitian coffee shop, Caffe Florian, which combines enchanting atmosphere of refined and elegant Italian style, impeccable service and the finest products and offerings. In pursuit of our philosophy & implementation of innovating enhanced guest experience, we are currently launching a new exciting package designed for the affluent traveller. It combines a luxury stay in our suites and villas with the exclusive transportation in top end Rolls-Royce car.



PURE AND TIMELESS SPIRIT OF HOROLOGY – THE SEAROCK AUTOMATIC

The SEAROCK unmistakably embodies the characteristic and distinctive design for which the traditional Swiss ROAMER OF SWITZERLAND brand has been renowned since 1888. This new exquisite wristwatch combines classically elegant styling, reliable functionality and impeccable Swiss-made quality. Inspired by a legendary design from the 1970s, this sophisticated men's watch is now one of the brand's signature models.

The success story of ROAMER OF SWITZERLAND began in Solothurn, Switzerland in 1888, when its pioneering founder Fritz Meyer set out to create a robust yet elegant watch, a precious accessory that everyone would love to own. With this goal, he set up a workshop producing cylinder escapements for the watch industry. A mere nine years afterwards, his company had created Calibre No.38, its first completely in-house watch movement. Meyer partnered with Johann Stüdeli and registered the name ROAMER in 1908. The company grew rapidly and by 1923 had manufactured over one million movements.

To ensure quality control, ROAMER also began making its own cases and by the 1930s, ROAMER was producing all watch components in its own factory. The flowing lines of stainless steel and strap inserts of high-class carbide metal give the SEAROCK its timeless look, helping the watch to really live up to its name: the SEAROCK is as solid as a rock at all times.

The SEAROCK stands out with its varicoloured dials and a seconds hand with a different-coloured



tip. The easily visible date display complements the spot-on functionality of the watch. The collection of ROAMER OF SWITZERLAND merges the brand's proud history with enduring values such as unique design and an impressive stylistic vocabulary. The timepieces pay tribute to the illustrious history of the traditional Swiss brand.

BJC: THE LUXURY CENTRE

Bahrain Jewellery Centre (BJC) is an exclusive dealer of renowned Swiss Watches, Italian Jewellery, Leather Goods and Fashion ware.

It was established in the year 1978 with a single shop in the Manama suq area, exclusively for Watches and Jewellery. Initially it had only three members on its staff. Over the years, BJC has opened its branches in most of the prestigious shopping malls in the kingdom of Bahrain. Total number of showrooms including the boutiques increased to 10.

Bahrain Jewellery Centre has been regularly participating in the Jewellery Arabia Exhibition, since its inception in 1992. BJC was the motivating force behind the set up of this type of event, and has the largest exhibiting space among the exhibitors every year, representing world renowned and reputed companies



ROAMER

OF SWITZERLAND

WWW.ROAMER.CH

bjc

مركز البحرين للمجوهرات
BAHRAIN JEWELLERY CENTRE

TEL: 17 52 00 52, FAX: 17 52 00 59
EMAIL: BJC@BJC.COM.BH
WEB: WWW.BJC.COM.BH



SEAROCK

SINCE
1888
ROAMER
OF SWITZERLAND

LULU SPURS RETAIL GROWTH OF KINGDOM

There is no doubt that the LuLu Group which owns the LuLu Hypermarket chain spanning across many countries, has changed the way Bahrain shops and does business. Having entered the Kingdom in 2007 and quickly expanded to four hypermarkets – the first was in Dana Mall, followed by Riffa, A'ali and Hidd – as well as the cosy Ramli Mall, LuLu Hypermarket was the first to implement the idea of multiple hypermarket branches in different governorates of Bahrain. Today, everybody's favourite hypermarket is poised for further expansion with the opening of the LuLu Hypermarket in Juffair bringing the famed Lulu shopping experience closer home to residents of this area as well as to people working in the US Naval Base.

In December 2014, LuLu Group chairman Mr. Yusuffali M.A., was recognised by a high civilian honour of the Kingdom by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for his service to the development of Bahrain. Mr Yusuffali's vision powers the group's nation-building engagement with the community.

"As the Kingdom's biggest retail operation, with four of the biggest hypermarkets, LuLu Hypermarket is proud that it has helped to shape the retail sector and deliver a higher growth trajectory," Mr. Yusuffali said.

Mr Yusuffali praised the vision of Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa. "On the occasion of Bahrain's National Day, I extend warm greetings to the leadership led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa," Mr. Yusuffali said, adding, "Bahrain's leaders have been able to translate their vision into growth and inspire the business sector, making each and every citizen and resident a stakeholder in the Kingdom's progress." Referring to the chain's rapid and exciting expansion in Bahrain, Mr. Yusuffali said, "As a place to do business, Bahrain has



excellent transparency in the business arena and no-fuss regulations that encourage us to invest in the country and its people confidently. The leaders and the government are both very accessible and open to ideas. This progressive approach has encouraged the LuLu Group to invest in Bahrain's future and make ourselves a part of the Kingdom's bright future. As a result, we have an ambitious expansion plan for our operations in the Kingdom." National Day at LuLu is always a time to celebrate the group's engagement with the community and its continuing contribution to the Kingdom's progress. The retail giant's four hypermarkets are all decorated to reflect the joyful spirit of patriotism and achievements during the National Day holidays. This is also a time when LuLu celebrates its popular 'I Love Bahrain' festival at which Bahrain SMEs, craftspersons and traditional chefs are given an opportunity to showcase their companies, their craft skills and treat visitors to a quick taste of authentic traditional Bahraini food. In the aisles of LuLu, this National Day, shoppers will also find Bahraini produce from the Kingdom's farms and also jars of tasty pickles and preserves made by women members of the Bahrain Productive Families Unit of

the Ministry of Social Development – a support that has been acknowledged by the Ministry and the Supreme Council for Women.

Business success

"When we entered Bahrain in 2007, we made a promise to invest BD100 million in the Kingdom and by 2010, we had met and even exceeded this commitment," said Mr Yusuffali. "We employ the highest number of Bahrainis and also the biggest number of differently-abled Bahrainis in the Kingdom, who have all contributed richly to our success. As employers, we have been able to tap their innate people skills and translate these with training into the kind of customer-friendly resources that the retail industry thrives on," he said. The core philosophy of LuLu Hypermarket is to serve a diversified customer base with the best quality, the widest range of products and the best deals. The aisles of the hypermarket are truly international, catering to many different nationalities. LuLu Hypermarket, Bahrain Regional Director Juzer Rupawala said, "Our shoppers belong to all nationalities but are touched by the Bahraini way of life and respond equally to the shared brand promise. LuLu has a strong CSR programme that supports diverse local charities and a hands-on approach to community engagement – we have a 'Joy of Giving' outreach programme every Ramadan, we work with the Royal Charity Organisation to support its orphan care programme and support several worthy causes."

On the occasion of Bahrain's annual National Day 'I Love Bahrain' festival is a loving tribute to the Kingdom, the Hypermarket is looking forward to welcoming Bahraini and non-Bahraini visitors who can join the celebrations and rejoice in the promise and potential of this country.





ON THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION
AND THE **16TH ANNIVERSARY** OF HIS
MAJESTY KING HAMAD'S ACCESSION TO THE THRONE,
WE EXTEND OUR HEARTIEST GREETINGS AND WARMEST WISHES TO

HIS MAJESTY

KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA

THE PRIME MINISTER

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

THE CROWN PRINCE, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER & FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER

AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN



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SUPERMARKETS.
DEPARTMENT STORES.

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Dana Mall 17553555 - East Riffa 17773355 - Ramli Mall, A'ali 17646455 - Hidd 17465599 lulu@batelco.com.bh



MADE IN BAHRAIN SOLD IN U.S.



MRS Fashions WLL, started manufacturing women's apparel in Bahrain in the year 2000. With a humble beginning of 500 employees, the company today has two state of the art manufacturing units employing over 2,000 people. Among its customers are reputed and well-known international brands like J C Penney, Wal-Mart, Macy's, KOHL's, Haggar and Levis. The latest plant opened up in the beginning of this year at Bahrain Industrial Investment park (BIIP). This facility has almost 150,000 sq feet area of manufacturing space and like all the other units under MRS umbrella this is fully compliant with local and international standards. The Company is ISO 9001:2008 & OHSAS 18001:2007 certified by TUV of Germany. It is now actively pursuing its goal to be certified

“ Bahrainis form an important part of the workforce. Many of them have been trained through internal and external training programs and are today part of the management of the company. The retention of employees is very high with some of the Bahraini employees working with the company from the past 15 years.”



on EMS – ISO 14001:2004 standards. MRS Fashions' expatriate workforce comprises of Indians, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, Nepalese, Myanmaris and Egyptians. The company has developed robust human resources practices and fills in higher positions internally through proper career progression plans. Many of the workers have been with the organisation for a decade or more and have reached positions of responsibility from very humble beginnings. New employees coming in go through a proper orientation programme, a buddy system and management engagement making it easy for them to adapt to their new

environment. The company has engaged chefs from countries from where they hire their employees so that the workforce gets home taste of food. Employees are counselled on career planning and guided on personal finance. After work hours, the employee engagement includes gym, indoor and outdoor sports facility, daily and weekly periodicals and TV channels from home country. Bahrainis form an important part of the workforce. Many of them have been trained through internal and external training programs and are today part of the management of the company. The retention of employees is very high with

some of the Bahraini employees working with the company from the past 15 years. According to Abdullah Jurdabi, the Public Relations Manager, a comfortable working environment with ergonomically designed workstations, performance based incentives, annual appraisal and career progression makes it a great place to be in. The company is part of a large group based in Hong Kong and has manufacturing operations in Bangladesh, Egypt, China and Bahrain. As a part of expansion, it plans on opening in Oman and Ethiopia. Harinder B S Lamba, who heads the operations for Bahrain, Middle-east and Africa has only praises for the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Congratulations

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,
King of Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa,
The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa,
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander
and First Deputy Prime Minister

**and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain
on the occasion of the**

44th BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY



M.R.S Fashions WLL

PO Box 37318, East Riffa, Kingdom of Bahrain

Tel:- +973 17768100, Fax:- 17763214, email:- Admin.Mgr@mrs.com.bh.



SCUBA DIVING: SCOPE APLENTY

Muhannad Mansour

Bahrain's seabed is in dire need of official attention, says one of the most prominent Bahraini scuba divers. "We're doing our best to promote the island as a hub for scuba diving and other watersports since the past two decades, but wrong fishing methods and sea sand extraction operations are making our mission hard, as they're ruining the beautiful underwater scenery in Bahrain," says Ahmed Al Khalfan, owner and founder of one of the first scuba diving centres in Bahrain, Scuba Master. Mr. Al Khalfan informs that since Bahrain is an island, scuba diving could be developed as one of the main tourist attractions in the Kingdom. "We have stunning underwater sceneries such as coral reefs, pearl shells and other beautiful sea creatures, especially in the water located at the northern parts of the island," he says. "Unfortunately, conditions deteriorated with the continuing sea sand extraction operations, illegal fishing methods and the recent decision of banning pearl diving in Bahrain," Mr. Al Khalfan informs. Mr. Al Khalfan has been in the field of water sports and scuba diving since 2002. He opened his shop Scuba Master in 2007, which quickly became renowned not only in Bahrain, but the whole region. Since then, Mr. Al Khalfan was granted multiple international diving certificates, including the only Course Director Certificate awarded

to a Bahraini in March 2015 by the The Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), giving him the authority to train diving instructors.

While speaking about the best underwater attractions in Bahrain, Mr. Al Khalfan opines that some of the most favoured diving spots in Bahraini waters are located at the north of the island in an area called "Bulathama", where the wreckage of drowned ships could be explored and shoals of fish and some of the rare coral reefs could be observed.

The professional diver also confirms that despite the capabilities available in Bahrain, scuba diving here managed to steadily attract large numbers of enthusiasts every year, be it from Bahrain or from the neighbouring countries.

"We're receiving numerous requests to teach and certify divers in Bahrain. I say this field is rapidly growing and flourishing in the country, yet, official support is needed to make Bahrain a hub for such sports in the region," he added.

Inviting people to experience this exceptional sport, Al Khalfan commented, "Diving will shift you from the pressure of a busy hectic world on the surface, to a silent, peaceful and beautiful underwater where amazing things can be discovered. Where the land ends, a new experience begins."

"Diving will shift you from the pressure of a busy hectic world on the surface, to a silent, peaceful and beautiful below where amazing things can be discovered. Where the land ends, a new experience begins."

-Ahmed Al Khalfan



JOYALUKKAS: WORLD'S FAVOURITE JEWELLER



Hon'able Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalitha receives 3 crores flood-relief cheque from Mr. Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD Joyalukkas Group.

The Joyalukkas Group has rapidly expanded its foothold all over the globe since its inception in 1987. The Group has grown tremendously, with over 10 million customers, employing a highly committed and satisfied team of over 7,000 people in 10 countries. The phenomenal success of Joyalukkas has been driven by an unstinting commitment to quality, a fact that has been widely recognized. Joyalukkas jewellery was the first jewellery retailer to be awarded the prestigious ISO 9001:2008 and 14001:2004 certification. This was only the beginning for the series of achievements that followed.

Joyalukkas has been hailed as the world's favourite jeweller, not without reason. They are also the jewellery chain to be conferred with the honour of the Retailer of the Year in the Middle East. In addition, Joyalukkas has the distinction of being awarded the Dubai Quality Awards Certification by HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Significantly, the jewellery retail chain is the only jeweller to have been awarded the Superbrand status in the UAE for 6 consecutive years, from 2010 to 2015.

Currently the Joyalukkas Group operations include Jewellery, Money Exchange, Luxury Air Charter, Fashion, Silks & Malls. The Group's vision is to 'enhance lifestyle's' and all businesses the group is currently involved in works towards this vision. The Joyalukkas Group has also always believed that the people and the community within which it operates are the cornerstones for its success and as such is actively involved in CSR

(Corporate Social Responsibility) activities across the world. Joyalukkas consistently undertakes various programmes to help the needy and encourages causes that benefit the society. From building homes to helping flood victims, blood donations or helping expats with financial assistance to return home, the Group has always believed in being there when needed the most.

Recently Joyalukkas presented an aid of Indian Rupees 30 millions (about BD169,000) to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalitha to support Chennai flood rehabilitation programmes. An estimated three million people have been affected by one of the worst natural disasters to ever hit Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Record-breaking rainfall and the overflowing of several lakes have left thousands homeless and without food or electricity. Joyalukkas Group has been one of the first organisations on ground supporting relief efforts. "Chennai is very close to my heart, people here have supported us greatly through the years," says Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD Joyalukkas Group. "It is our turn to stand with them and get them through this very difficult time. The Joyalukkas Foundation is stepping up its relief efforts, beginning with this humble cash donation to the Chief Minister's relief fund to provide relief to the victims as soon as possible. Our thoughts and prayers are with the affected families." Mr. Alukkas personally offered his support to Ms.

Jayalitha on December 8, along with the cheque. The much awaited 'Season of Giving' promotion started at all Joyalukkas outlets across G.C.C, Malaysia and Singapore. Customers can avail 10 % cash

back on Diamond and Polki purchases and 0 % deduction on gold exchange. There will be no making charge for 8 gms gold coins, during this period. This offer is valid till January 31st.

Season of Giving

10% CASH BACK
ON DIAMOND AND POLKI JEWELLERY

0% DEDUCTION
ON JOYALUKKAS GOLD JEWELLERY EXCHANGE

Offer valid till 31st January 2016

BD 250 PA16751
BD 140 ENSP0232
BD 175 DPS1083P
BD 220 LDTF1295
BD 245 PA16767
BD 70 R16769
BD 90 RA89487
BD 45 R16734
BD 75 R16767
BD 55 ENSR0235

Conditions apply

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World's favourite jeweller

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LANTERNS: FOR A NEW EXPERIENCE

Lanterns is an exclusive high profile and award-winning restaurant with its striking design of age-old traditional set-up and casual atmosphere, making it a mystically beautiful and interesting place to dine, while reflecting the moods and colours of India.

India has a rich palate of mixtures and like its architecture; the dining menu at Lanterns offers Anglo Indian flavours, aging back from ancient to modern culinary influences of Asia, Portuguese, modern English and India, combined which represents the eating habits of Indians in today's society.

At Lanterns, we pride ourselves with our well-known Maharaja Feast Buffet, which has always been a hit since 1987. And recently, in addition to our Anglo Indian choices and live stirfry station, we have now introduced a live mixed grill station at Adliya and Riffa branches.

The original Budaiya's branch opened in 1987 and, after 25 successful years, 2013 and 2014 saw a major expansion with branches in Adliya, Durrat Al Bahrain, Juffair and Riffa.

Adliya: Lanterns in Adliya is a popular hotspot for Bahrain's nightlife of what's 'Up in town' with its three distinctive areas: The 'Truck Bar,' 'Garden Lounge' and 'Dinning Room.' Whether you want to enjoy a night

out with drinks and cocktails for after work gatherings or an evening social outing with friends and family, Lanterns has it all- from Al la Carte menu selection to Maharaja Feast Buffet and a Bistro Courtyard Menu for the 'Not so hungry'.

The never ending happy hour 'All Day Every Day' in the Truck Lounge is a big hit as well. Our courtyard has a social festive atmosphere and offers its own distinctive courtyard menu consisting of international cuisines and nibbles. Alongside the Garden Lounge, Lanterns is proud to introduce the new 'Cool' of Bahrain, offering chilled outdoor airconditioning to hit the right spot of comfort during the hot peak months for you to enjoy in the open outdoor courtyard.

Riffa: Walking into the recently opened Riffa branch, you can see the familiar elements that dotted around the other venues and immediately feel a sense of familiar fondness.

The gorgeous authentic woodwork pieces shipped from India, the signature Lanterns casting their glow on the outdoor terrace, and the ever-smiling, efficient staff are all exactly what you would expect from a restaurant that's been favourite on the island for many years.



Now Introducing our **NEW**
Live Music Singers
"Nawab & Madhu"
at our
Adliya Branch



LanternsLoungeBahrain



lanternsbahrain

New website coming soon...

BUDAIYA

Established in 1987, prestigious "Lanterns" was opened in the premises of Bahrain Arts Society and today its still the flagship restaurant of the Group.

- A la carte
- Maharaja Buffet (Monday Dinner and Friday Lunch)

Tel: 17590591

DURRAT

Opened in 2014, Breath-taking views await customers at the Durrat Al Bahrain branch which caters to all walks from residents to visitors.

- Al la carte (Indian & Chinese)
- Great for deliveries and "Catering" in the Al Durrat Sector

Tel: 77770004 / 77771114



ADLIYA

Opened in 2013 in the heart of Adliya, Lanterns Lounge & Restaurant is a popular hot spot for Bahrain's nightlife, featuring three distinct areas, the Truck Bar, the Courtyard Garden Lounge and the dining room.

- Live Music - NOW Introducing our new singers "Nawab & Madhu"
- Al la carte
- Maharaja Feast Buffet (Thursday Dinner, Friday Lunch & Dinner, Saturday Lunch)
- Happy Hour every hour in the "Truck Lounge"
- Courtyard garden menu
- Creative mixologist Bartenders upon your request

Tel: 17246777 / 17250999



JUFFAIR

Opened in 2014, Located down American Alley, "Discover the taste of Moghul & Ming" contemporary Indian with an exclusive combination of oriental Chinese and Indian combined.

- Al la carte (Indian & Chinese)
- Soon to be open "Late Nights"
- Great for Deliveries
- Weekend drive by buzz

Tel: 17246777 / 17250999



RIFFA

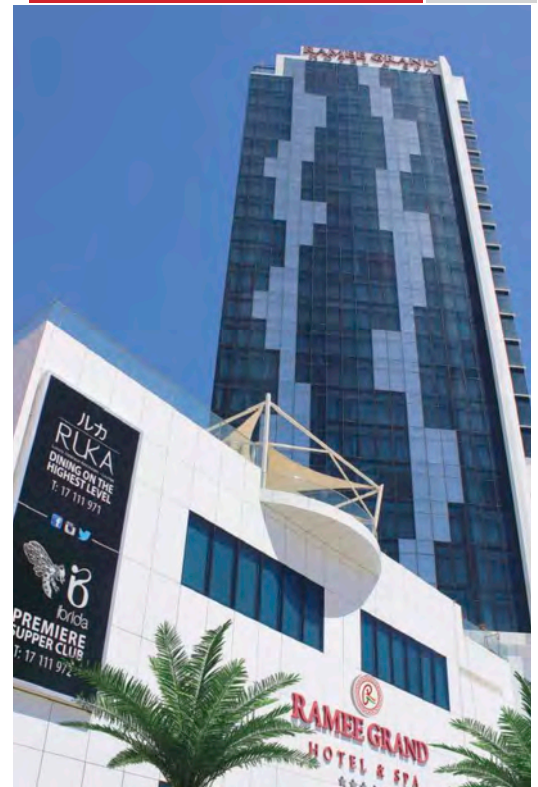
Opened in 2015 and a favourite for family dining.

- Al la carte
- Maharaja Feast Buffet (Thursday Dinner, Friday Lunch & Dinner, Saturday Lunch)
- Lunch Specials
- Great for Business meetings

Tel: 77366333 / 77366600



RAMEE GRAND HOTEL & SPA: OFFERING LUXURY



Ramee Grand Hotel & Spa is located in the business district of Seef, a few minute walk or drive to Seef Mall, Bahrain City Centre, all major shopping centres and local attractions. Ramee Grand Hotel & Spa offers an experience whether travelling on business or leisure. Together with its world-class features and amenities that include 166 rooms and suites with exclusive access to the Club Lounge, spa, fitness centre, and infinity swimming pool. Ramee Grand Hotel & Spa is certainly the place to be for the entire family, as well as groups of friends to share and spend the weekends together.

Ramee Grand provides all the facilities you should ask for under one roof with stylish rooms, various dining outlets and Ibrida, one of the best venues for a perfect night out.

Ruka



The luxury Japanese restaurant located on the 24th floor with breathtaking views of Manama and offers comprehensive fusion of Japanese delicacies prepared with highest quality ingredients.

Rasoi

Rasoi takes guests on a culinary journey with its open live kitchen and soothing music from a live ghazal band while you dine creating the perfect atmosphere to relish the sophisticated blend of flavours, which celebrate the vibrancy of Indian cuisine.

Lemon Tree

This is the perfect place to enjoy and celebrate the serenity of weekends with international favourites with live cooking stations along with live entertainment.

Ibrida

Ibrida is the heart of Bahrain's biggest nightlife entertainment and has steadily become the perfect venue for the perfect night getaway to unwind while sipping on specialty drinks

prepared by our expert mixologist.

Tea Garden

Offering connoisseurs collection of tea, pastries and gourmet sweets, sandwiches and cookies creates an ambience that will make guests want to stay all afternoon. Call 17 111 999 for more details or visit www.rameegrand-bahrain.com. Email us at reservation@rameegrandbahrain.com



CONGRATULATIONS
AND BEST WISHES TO

HIS MAJESTY
KING HAMAD BIN ISA AL KHALIFA
KING OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCE KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL KHALIFA
PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
PRINCE SALMAN BIN HAMAD AL KHALIFA
CROWN PRINCE, DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER
AND FIRST DEPUTY PREMIER OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

AND THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN ON THE OCCASION OF
NATIONAL DAY



RAMEE GRAND
HOTEL & SPA
Luxury by Ramee
★★★★★

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ASRY COMBATTING SLOW MARKET AND OIL PRICE DROP

ASRY Chief Executive reveals the firm's strategy to combat difficult maritime market conditions

ASRY Chairman
Shaikh Daij bin
Salman Al Khalifa

The Chief Executive of ASRY (Arab Shipbuilding & Repair Yard), the leading shipyard in the Arabian Gulf and one of the country's top employers, has revealed that global maritime market conditions, including the low oil price, are the biggest challenges to the firm's growth, but that results are holding steady due to an aggressive sales strategy and revenue diversification.

"Of the three revenue generating streams at ASRY", ASRY Chief Executive Nils Kristian Berge revealed, "the Ship Repair sector is proving most successful as we come through the fourth quarter of the year. Enquiries are high, and the yard continues to post strong capacity numbers going into next year. The rig repair sector, however, still labours under pressure from the low price of oil, affecting ASRY revenues significantly. In response, recent months has seen a rise in New Construction activity as well as more complicated repair projects being undertaken and completed." This New Construction work refers to a contract to build a new Landing Craft for the Bahrain Coast Guard, which is proceeding well, with a steel-cutting ceremony and keel-laying ceremony both taking place recently, and the majority of steel cutting being completed. This positive movement in the newbuild arena, combined with a useful showing at the recent Abu Dhabi Seatrade Offshore Marine & Workboats

Exhibition, has resulted in several strong leads materializing for the firm, as Berge confirmed, "the newbuild pipeline will be strong if current interest levels persist."

The latter half of the year has also seen the yard's operations teams rise to some interesting technical challenges. "With ASRY being chosen by Odfjell to implement a new energy-saving propulsion package on three of their chemical tankers," Berge commented, "we were given the opportunity to deliver an advanced scope to a global client. After sea trials the new propulsion concept showed a 20pc energy efficiency gain, pleasing the client and providing another string to ASRY's bow."

Recognition for the above, plus other work throughout 2015 has been forthcoming for ASRY as the regional maritime Awards programmes take place. ASRY picked up four nominations in total, from the two major awards programmes; two nods from the Seatrade Maritime Awards in the Ship Repair Innovation category and Corporate Social Responsibility category, and two nods from the Lloyds List Awards MEIS in the Shipyard of the Year category and Safety category. The company's Chairman, Shaikh Daij Bin Salman Al Khalifa, also won The Maritime Industry Award at the Seatrade Awards in Dubai in October for his contributions to the maritime industry regionally over the course of his career. While the rig repair market in general is feeling downward pressure due to the persistence of low oil prices, Berge confirms that there is some optimism: "ASRY is still managing to maintain



its leading market share with contract awards from the major operators in the region. This is a silver-lining to the cloud of low oil prices - ASRY is winning the majority of the reduced work available. A similar situation can be seen in Navy repairs, where growth is also continuing."

Regarding the yard's solid Navy work schedule this year, this comes off the back of a long-term collaborative enabling agreement with Babcock, the UK's market-leading engineering support services company, to undertake maintenance work on UK Royal Navy warships in the Gulf.

The agreement will cover work from general maintenance to specific projects such as the changing of diesel generators

under the Sandown Volvo Generator Programme. ASRY will deliver the in-theatre engineering support while Babcock provides project management and technical information through a locally based Class Output Management (COM) oversight team, and some specific equipment where required. The Offshore Service division also managed its own milestone recently as it exceed 3.5 million manhours without having a Lost Time Incident (LTI). The landmark achievement, which includes over two and half years without a rig repair LTI, comes amid an ongoing optimisation of the Safety department and focus on quality excellence that the yard has made one of its top priorities. "We spend a lot of time and effort on





ASRY Chief Executive
Mr. Nils Kristian Berge



fostering a premium Safety culture," said ASRY Chief Executive, Nils Kristian Berge. "The well-being of our staff, contractors and clients is our number one priority during a project, and we have put extensive protocols in place to not only minimise incident frequency and severity, but also change the mindsets of every worker on site." Berge also emphasised the yards safety philosophy, "we're integrating safety and quality as the primary consideration – a safety briefing is the first agenda point at weekly Core Management meetings and includes weekly incident reports and full itemized HSEQ summary for the week."

ASRY's safety reputation is well-known amongst the maritime community. Already in 2015 there has been a decrease of approximately 14pc in the Cumulative Frequency Rate (calculated as the number of LTI per manhours, divided by 200,000) from 0.78 to 0.67. A recent restructuring has seen the Safety Department introduce unique new protocols to enhance Safety culture, including allowing clients to interact and agree a safety policy prior to vessel arrival; a co-signed live Bridging Document for Offshore clients which contains the safety manual on how the yard will go about its safety tasks; and a regularly publishing safety statistics on a yard-wide basis to maintain transparency and encourage all employees to take ownership of safety awareness.

ABOUT ASRY:

ASRY is the Arabian Gulf's most experienced ship and rig repair yard. Founded in 1977 in Bahrain, ASRY has over 35 years of experience in marine asset optimisation. Its leading range of facilities includes a 500,000dwt drydock, two floating docks of 252m and 227m in length, 15 repair berths with a total length of approximately 4,000m, twin 255m slipways, as well as a full range of workshops and service centres. The yard's portfolio of capabilities is not only the largest in the Arabian Gulf, but also includes jack-up rigs and other offshore assets, due to a dedicated division – ASRY Offshore Services. Combined with a series of other diversifications including ASRY New Construction & Engineering Division for marine engineering packages, ASRY is a multi-functional marine services hub committed to providing international standards to global shipowners operating in the Arabian Gulf.





Congratulations

and best wishes to

His Majesty

King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness

Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness

Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander
And First Deputy Premier of the
Kingdom of Bahrain

And the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain
on the occasion of

NATIONAL DAY



THE PRIDE OF BAHRAIN



Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) was founded in December 1979 as the hub for cooperation between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The company specializes in manufacturing fertilizers and petrochemicals and takes advantage of natural gas, produced by Bahrain, as a raw material for the industry. The company is equally owned by the Government of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, represented by the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) and Kuwait, represented by the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC). GPIC's Board of Directors has members from all the three major stakeholders.

The plant, on 60 hectares of reclaimed land, initially had a production capacity in 1985 of 1,000 metric tonnes of ammonia and methanol per day. By 1989, this had increased to approximately 1,200 tonnes per day.

In view of this success in production and marketing, a decision was made to expand the plant to manufacture urea following which a 1,700 metric tonnes per day urea facility was opened in 1998. This self-contained plant exports the finest urea granules all over the world.

The total GPIC production for all three products now approximates 1.46 million tonnes per year.

The company boasts an excellent safety record with several highly esteemed achievements in the field of environmental and health and safety. GPIC has won several prestigious national and international awards and has proved that harmony between industry and environment, is possible.

GPIC looks to its future as a company with clear distinction in the production and export of high quality petrochemical products through maintaining its unique global position in the field. GPIC has consistently directed its efforts and investment in the development and modernization of its equipment and management control systems. It furthermore seeks to expand on this sustainable success through the expansion of the plant's existing facilities or through building stand-alone plants in the coming years.

“The plant, on 60 hectares of reclaimed land, initially had a production capacity in 1985 of 1,000 metric tonnes of ammonia and methanol per day. By 1989, this had increased to approximately 1,200 tonnes per day.”

Management Approach: The concept of “one team”

GPIC fully believes and understands how vital and critical employees are in the company's potential to grow and succeed year on year. The Executive Management defines and refines the company's vision and objectives as well as its development, in consultation with all employees. The Management Team also regularly publishes statistics that reflect the company's progress and keeps all employees informed on the challenges and opportunities which lie ahead. This one-family spirit amongst all of those working at GPIC, is reinforced on a daily basis through the coordination of meetings, involvement of employees at all levels within committees, the cascading of communication throughout the organization in an open and transparent way, social activities and special events. A number of these committees as mentioned, focus on safety, health and the environment as well as on training and development and enhancing productivity. Thus employees are at the forefront and fully involved in the direction of the company as well as their own development in terms of achieving set company goals.

Training and Development

Since its establishment, GPIC has considered the development of its employee skills and competencies, a top priority and has invested heavily in promoting the skills development of local employees. The management has strategically developed a number of Bahrainis to take up senior positions and as part of that, the company's Academy

of Leadership and Learning, regularly organizes courses to ensure a workforce educated on global concepts.

The company believes in and is committed to providing equal employment opportunities which is clearly reflected in the number of women now in employment within the company.

The Academy boasts a state-of-the-art theatre, fully equipment training classrooms along with models of the factory and simulators and an e-learning centre.

Health and Safety

Safety in the petrochemical industry is an important aspect since the plant uses flammable gases and high-pressure electricity, in addition to other high-speed devices. Because of this, GPIC adopts a strict policy on risk management. This is why the company has maintained a superior track record in health and safety achievements, which is unique by industry standards. GPIC has won many awards in the field of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) as well as the environment from the United Kingdom's Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), in addition to its Sir George Earl Award and the Robert Campbell Safety Award from the National Safety Council of the United States in recognition of its strict adherence to these systems and their continued development. GPIC also has a modern and sophisticated medical centre run by experienced doctors and qualified nurses. This facility provides primary health care services and first aid and conducts periodic medical examinations for all staff round the clock. A large number of

employees have also been trained in first aid and emergency services through the health centre to help when needed. Blood donation campaigns are organized regularly in co-operation with the company's Trade Union and the Ministry of Health. It is worthy to note that all employees undergo compulsory fire and emergency training when joining the company and furthermore, undergo refresher training throughout their career in this regard.

Environmental Protection

Since its inception, GPIC has realized the importance of maintaining an ecological balance with the environment. Some 26 years ago, the company had already conducted an intensive impact survey to highlight and recommend a sustainable way forward for the organization and its facilities. Now, more than 26 years after operations began, the company is still working according to the most accurate local and international environmental standards.

In 2007, GPIC launched the Delmon International Prize, an environmental award, in co-ordination with RoSPA. The name “Delmon” reflects the history of Bahrain and the company's commitment to safety, health and the environment and its ongoing contributions in these areas. In 2008, GPIC commissioned a 450 metric tons per day Carbon Dioxide Recovery (CDR) plant, the first such facility in the Middle East, which contributed to reducing gas emissions and improving the overall efficiency of available resources whilst maximizing methanol and urea production in a safe and sustainable way.





1. Charity Garden: In March 1992, GPIC set up a charity garden to produce vegetables and fruits, all of which are donated to charities and needy families within the local community. Fruit and palm trees have recently been added to the garden as well.

2. Fish Farm: GPIC set up a fish farm within its plant facility in 1996 to showcase how GPIC lives its values and vision throughout its endeavors. The fish farm highlights GPIC as a role model for other industries as well as how the company takes care of the declining fish stocks in Bahrain's territorial waters. The fish farm was recently expanded to include around 100,000 fish.

3. Bird Sanctuary: With the improvement in the environment surrounding the company, GPIC opened a Bird Sanctuary in 2001. The sanctuary was cleverly designed and positioned to attract hundreds of migratory birds to a stunningly beautiful constructed natural habitat.

4. Bahraini Plants Garden: This was opened in 2005 under the patronage of Shaikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the then Southern Governor and Chairman of the Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife. The garden demonstrates

the company's interest in its environmental protection initiatives and highlights how this innovative project aims to preserve local trees.

5. Princess Sabeeka Aromatic Plants Garden: This was opened in March 2009 by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King. This unique garden has been designed primarily to include various types of aromatic plants and medicinal herbs originating in Bahrain.

6. Bahraini Japanese Friendship Garden: The idea of this project came after the visit of His Majesty the King to Japan in 2013. The garden was designed and built in co-operation with a Japanese company, with the support of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King of Bahrain and Chairperson of the Supreme Council for Women, and in response to the programme of the National Initiative for the Development of Agriculture in Bahrain. The garden covers an area of 6,833 square meters and allows citizens, residents and visitors easy access to learn about the beauty and splendour of Japanese culture and history through this authentic experience.



Warmest Greetings

to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Kingdom of Bahrain
His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister
His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khaifa, Crown Prince
Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister
and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the Occasion of the
NATIONAL DAY



THE CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES OF

Gulf Petrochemical Industries Co.

TAMKEEN – SUPPORTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MAKE IT THE ENGINE OF GROWTH

Since its establishment in 2006, Tamkeen has been tasked with supporting the growth and development of the private sector with the aim of making it the engine of growth of Bahrain's economy for sustainable economic development. One of the steps needed to achieve this is the creation of a comprehensive business eco-system that allows businesses and individuals for further growth and development.

Supporting the development of the private sector is a main element for the growth of any modern economy, as new ideas and concepts need to be continuously injected into the market due to constantly changing requirements as well as the dynamic nature of the economy. The creation of this environment requires both changes in corporate culture as well as providing the means that will allow businesses to thrive. As part of this approach, Tamkeen provides a number of programmes to address this issue, both on an individual level and on a business level.

Tamkeen's Enterprise Support Programme

Tamkeen's Enterprise Support for businesses and individuals provides the necessary elements helping them to reach their professional goals. This support is now customizable and covers a broad set of needs instead of specific operational aspects such as Marketing, Accounting or Equipment procurement, and now allows applicants to customise the type of support according to their needs, which tend to differ significantly depending on their type and sector.

The support also allows individuals to apply for international placements, with the objective of gaining work experience. In addition, businesses can now also apply to receive training and wage subsidy support for their Bahraini employees. Tamkeen also wanted to encourage more planning as it was noticed a lot of businesses are going through with their projects without a solid business plan. The support now requires a business plan that contains goals, KPIs and a specific timeline, which assists businesses (especially start-ups) to be able to have a more clear outline of what they need to do moving forward. Based on the completion of the KPIs in the plan, the support percentage increases once the businesses reach their KPIs in a move that encourages businesses to achieve their goals. Tamkeen also implemented a number of changes to the procedures that make it easier to apply for the support. One of which is the launch of an online portal, where the customer can complete their application without having to physically be present at a customer service centre. Tamkeen also recently launched a new electronic form of payment for faster processing.



Tamkeen's Finance Scheme

One of the biggest challenges facing entrepreneurs, start-ups and small businesses is the provision of funding, as these types of businesses generally have high risk, and banks can become reluctant to provide them with financing. In-line with Tamkeen's efforts to support entrepreneurship, Tamkeen offers the Enterprise Financing Scheme, whereby Tamkeen provides 50% of the interest of the financing provided by the bank to a business, in addition to providing a 50% guarantee to the lending bank. This way, Tamkeen alleviates the risk associated with new ventures and small/medium businesses. While Tamkeen only provides a fraction of the total financing, because of the existence of the programme, many businesses have been able to receive funding to become a reality.

More than BHD 400 Million has been provided to more than 6000 enterprises through 9 partner banks since Tamkeen's establishment in 2006. Tamkeen's goal through the programme is not to serve as a funding entity; banks already serve that purpose. Tamkeen's role is to serve as a driver for the creation of the environment described previously. Tamkeen's other programmes also work towards achieving this goal. Entrepreneurship can be a solution to the global challenge of youth unemployment, and a significant source of innovation and job creation.

Tamkeen over the last 12 months

Tamkeen, during the last 12 months of operation has accomplished a variety of support-related and efficiency-focused operations including finalising 17 impact assessment studies and realigning Tamkeen's internal operations to better serve customers. Tamkeen has also expanded the total number of its customer service outlets from 7 to 9 in 2015, successfully re-launched its portal to allow for a better application and registration process, and introduced a new payment method for receiving Tamkeen's Support through (IBAN) that reduced the processing time of customer and supplier transactions from 45 days to 14 days.

From the beginning of 2015 to date, more than 2,300 businesses benefited from Tamkeen, 64% of which are start-up businesses. In addition, from the beginning of 2015 to date, more than 4,500 individuals benefited from Tamkeen, majority of which are current employees working in the private sector.

THE DEVELOPMENT CATALYST

Mumtalakat
INVESTING FOR BAHRAIN

Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company was established in June 2006 as an independent holding company to actively manage and grow a diverse portfolio of commercial assets. Mumtalakat manages its portfolio with the objective of enhancing the performance and returns of its assets. Furthermore, it actively seeks to invest in commercially sound and sustainable opportunities locally, regionally and internationally. 2015 was a great year for Mumtalakat, where it made further strides towards fulfilling its long term objectives and bringing benefits to the Bahraini economy. An example of this is its recent signing of a joint venture agreement with Synergies Casting Limited ("Synergies") to establish an aluminium casting

and specialty alloy wheel manufacturing facility in Bahrain, which is expected to create 600 new jobs in Bahrain. Mumtalakat also announced the development of two luxury resorts to boost the Kingdom's real estate sector. The first is the development of Fairmont Bahrain Resort, through its subsidiary Bahrain Real Estate Investment ("Edamah"). The resort will be located in Al Jazayer Beach and is slated to open in 2018. Later in the year, Mumtalakat announced the development of Anantara Durrat Al Bahrain Resort which will be the first luxury waterfront resort in Durrat Al Bahrain. In addition to Mumtalakat's investments locally, Mumtalakat also looks into international investments that are commercially sound. During the first quarter of 2015, Mumtalakat and Investcorp

announced the signing of a definitive agreement to acquire Nobel Learning, a leading provider of private preschool through high school education in the United States. Achieving the highest standards of transparency has also been a key area of focus for Mumtalakat. Early 2015, Mumtalakat scored a ten out of ten in the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute's Linaburg-Maduell Transparency Index, the recognised barometer for transparency in the industry. This score is one of the highest scores in the region. Going forward, Mumtalakat will continue to look for commercially viable investment opportunities in companies with growth potential across multiple industries and geographies to achieve sustainable investment returns.



Mumtalakat
INVESTING FOR BAHRAIN

Congratulations and Best wishes to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier

and to the Government and the People of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of

National Day



Chairman and Board Members of
Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company,
The Employees and All Portfolio Companies

www.bmhc.bh



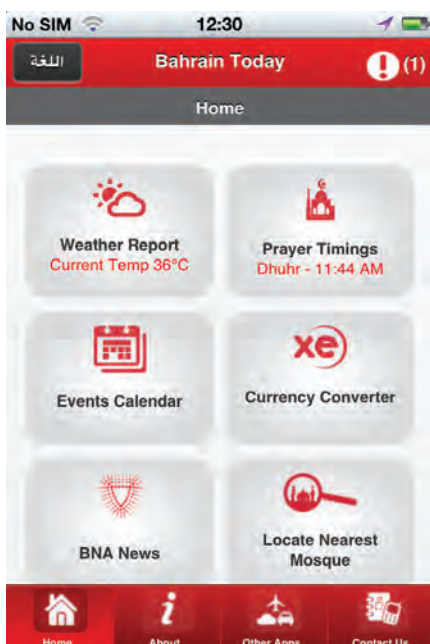


TECH-SAVVY BAHRAIN

DT News Network

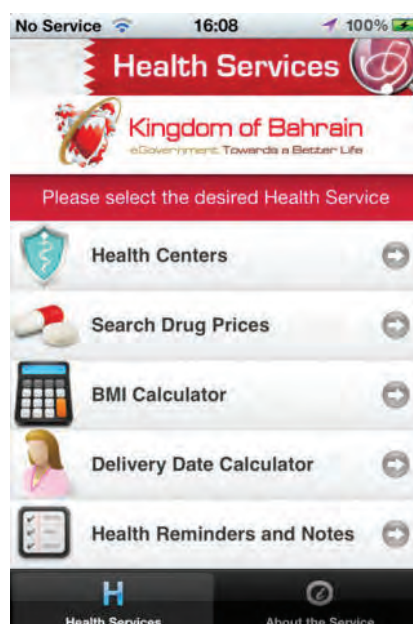
From finding the status of travel ban, reporting road faults, or paying traffic contraventions, now there is an app for everything in Bahrain, thanks to the proactive actions by the authorities. Technological advancements have made a huge impact on the way people

lead their personal lives as well as on how societies and nations operate. The authorities in Bahrain wasted no time in adding convenience for the residents of the island. Over the years, eGovernment Authority (eGA) has added numerous apps that provide varied services from various ministries and organisations. DT News has selected some of the top apps created by the eGA that has made life easy for citizens and residents.



Bahrain Today

This application is aimed to help the users to: view the weather report, prayer timing, receive news and cultural events in Bahrain. It also provides services for currency conversion and to set reminders for selected prayers.



Health Locator

This service is provided by the Ministry of Health in Bahrain. This service offers numerous options related to health; such as drug search, BMI calculator, delivery date calculator (for pregnant women), hospitals, health centres and pharmacies locations. It also provides interactive searching facility and location maps for the government and private hospitals, health centres and pharmacies in the Kingdom.

Postal services

It allows users to view the location, contact details, and operating hours of post offices in Bahrain. It also makes it possible to calculate the estimated fee of a package by entering the weight, country and mail type.

Islamiyat

Islamiyat App is provided by the eGA in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs. The application provides various Islamic related services available around the year, and other seasonal services. You can benefit from the following services offered within the application:

***Ramadan programmes:** In collaboration with Information Affairs Authority, a schedule of the most popular daily and weekly radio as well as TV programmes is provided.

***Ramadan Majalis Locator:** An inclusive directory of all the daily and weekly Majalis held all over Bahrain. The directory includes all the Majalis names, contact details, the ability to locate the desired Majalis, as well as search for the nearest Majlis to the user.

Prayer Timings and Imsakiya: It provides prayer timings, Imsakiya timings (when to break the fast), alarm for prayers, along with a compass for Qibla direction.

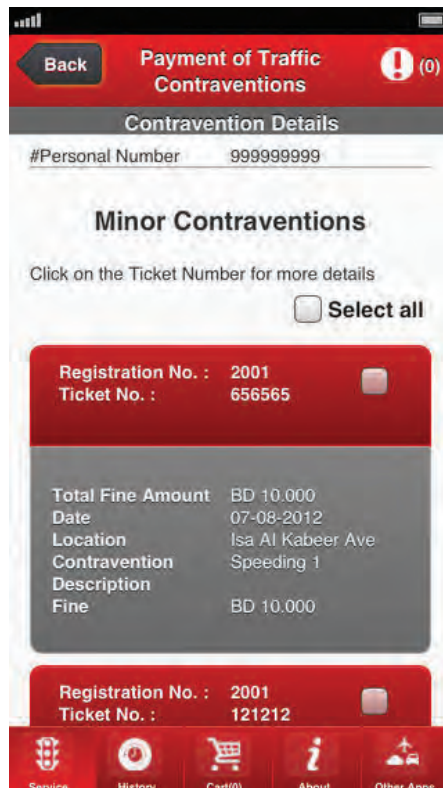
***Mosques Locator:** A directory of Masjids that provides basic and advanced search features which assist in locating all the Masjids in Bahrain.

***Hajj and Umrah:** A directory of Hajj and Umrah agencies including their contact data and addresses.

***Zakat:** It enables users to calculate their Zakat for any possession (house, gold, or silver).

eKiosk and eService Centre Locator

This application provides a directory listing for eGovernment Kiosk terminals and Electronic Service Centres within in the Kingdom. It allows users to locate eKiosk and eService Centres through the usage of interactive map. The app also facilitates to get directions to the eKiosk or eService Centre from the user's current location.

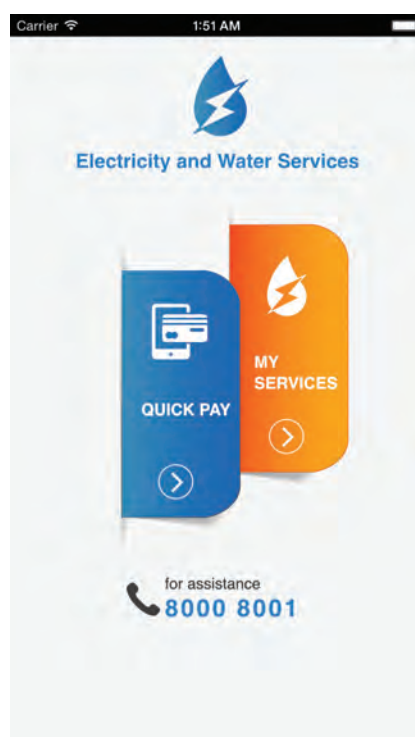
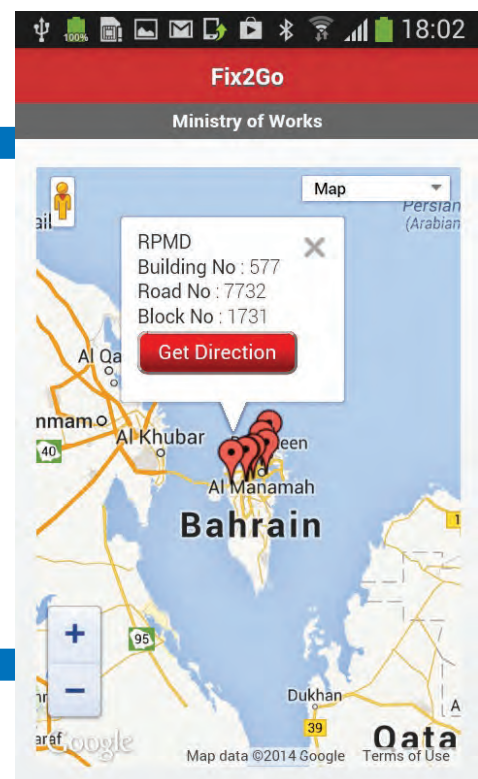


Traffic services

This application enables users to pay their contravention tickets, renew their driving license, and renew their vehicle registration. It also allows viewing the payment transaction history, receiving payment receipts through email or SMS, and receiving notifications for outstanding bills. It has features such as, bill inquiry for multiple tickets, payment through credit card for multiple tickets, receive notifications for outstanding bills, driver's license renewal and vehicle registration renewal.

Fix2Go

This application leverages on the idea of crowdsourcing and enables both citizens and residents of Bahrain to collaborate with the Government and help in maintaining a healthy and safe infrastructure by allowing them to do the following: Report road faults, traffic signal service and sanitary maintenance request. Users must attach or capture the fault they are reporting, enter their contact details, as well as mark the location of the defect either by providing the postal address or sharing their current location on the spot.



Electricity and water services

This application provided by the Electricity and Water Authority in the Kingdom of Bahrain, allows customers to enquire and pay bills, view bills and payment history, receive notifications for outstanding bills, submit metre readings, report high consumption, update contact details and modify bill delivery method.

PASSION TO PROTECT



National Fire Fighting Company, associated with NAFFCO- an ISO 9001:2000 certified company with its world headquarters at Dubai, is the largest fire fighting equipment manufacturing company in the world. It was established in 1991 with the state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for a wide range of fire fighting equipments. At present, it has more than 55 per cent market share of fire protection business in Bahrain. NAFFCO is serving more than 100 countries in the world and is the market leader in the Gulf. NAFFCO is the first U.L. listed organization in the Gulf in fire fighting field. All its products are approved by international approving agencies like B.S., L.P.C., U.L listed & F.M. approved as well as the local civil defence. National Fire Fighting Company is currently doing more than 32 projects in Bahrain and already completed 200+ projects successfully. The key behind the success and growth of any engineering organization is the engineering and project execution department. It has qualified engineers and a well-equipped engineering department. The successful completion of the numerous prestigious projects, both in government and private Sectors is attributed to its engineering and project execution department. Project execution is fully managed and supervised by a well-qualified engineer dedicated in the field of fire protection. Besides, our designs are based on international standards (NFPA codes, BS, UL, FM, API, IP), which are accepted by local civil defense authorities. We assure you that the engineering of NAFFCO will derive the best result to the utmost satisfaction of the client requirements.

“The key behind the success and growth of any engineering organization is the engineering and project execution department. It has qualified engineers and a well-equipped engineering department. The successful completion of the numerous prestigious projects, both in government and private Sectors is attributed to its engineering and project execution department.”

On this National Day,
let us together cherish and celebrate the glory of our country.
Congratulations on Bahrain National Day celebrations.



شركة ناشينل لإطفاء الحريق ذ.م.م.
NATIONAL Fire Fighting Company W.L.L.



Safety, Security and Fire Protection Systems Engineers
Tel: 1753 1277 / 1724 6555 | E-Mail -nfsafety@batelco.com.bh

The company is doing the turnkey job (design, supply, installation, testing & commissioning) for:

1. Sprinkler System (Wet., Dry & Pre-action type)
2. Deluge Systems
3. Wet & Dry Riser System
4. Hose Reel system
5. Water Spray system
6. Fire Detection System (Addressable & Conventional).
7. Emergency Lighting System
8. Foam Extinguishing System
9. FM-200 Fire Suppression System (Including other Clean Agent Systems)
10. CO2 Extinguishing System
11. Wet Chemical Kitchen Hood System
12. Fire Hydrant System
13. Passive Fire Protection
14. Safety Equipment
15. Fire Fighting Pumps (UL Listed, L.P.C. approved & B.S. STANDARDS)

It is also supplying:

1. All types of valves
2. Fire resistance Doors
3. Fire Retardant Paint
4. High Pressure Cylinders
5. All types of Filling Machines (Co2, Dry Powder and Clean Agent)
6. Fire Trucks, Vehicles, Trailer & Rescue Vans
7. Fire Alarm Cables



HIGH HOPES

Film-makers in Bahrain are eager to help the Kingdom to dominate in the field of film-making in the GCC



Keith Bulfin

Mahdi Rafea (left) receiving Nasser bin Hamad International Youth Creativity Award from His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman, Bahrain Olympic Committee President, HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Mohammed Zafran

With film-making seemingly booming in the Kingdom, young Bahraini film-makers are hoping that the nation positions itself as a hub for film-making in the years to come.

Film-makers in Bahrain are eager to help the Kingdom dominate in the field of film-making in the GCC. Award winning young Bahraini film-maker, Mahdi Rafea said he is confident that Bahrain could be the best in the region. "I am confident about the potential that we have in Bahrain. We have the talent, we just need the support and a suitable ground for them, then we will see Bahraini cinema flying," he said.

Mr. Rafea said that Bahraini youngsters were becoming captivated by the field of film-making because it provides a colourful medium to unleash their creativity. "Not only are they spreading their creativity through these films, but also they discuss the problems and concerns of the community. And as everyone knows, the language of picture can influence minds more than speech or writing," he said. Speaking of his own experience he said, "In the beginning, I entered into this field as an actor, but I did not get a right chance



to prove my talent. I did not give up and I continued to struggle to the point that I found myself making short films."

Film-maker Saleh Sharif believes that local support is essential for the success of film-making industry. "Locals should support local films and watch them in the cinema. Films won't be made if nobody goes out to watch them. If people support the locally produced films, then more films will come, more stories will reach the big screen," he said, adding, "Films have different themes, genre, styles, they all have their own voices and manners of presenting a certain subject or plot. Each is different, there's a lot that goes in the making of films. Each stands out differently. There are a lot people in Bahrain who are interested in the medium of films, but the cinema houses only offer the main stream, big budgeted films which are made mostly in Hollywood," he said. Ameera Al Qaed, director of the successful Bahraini film 'Dead Sands,'

“ Award winning young Bahraini film-maker, Mahdi Rafea said he was confident that Bahrain could be the best in the region. “I am confident about the potential that we have in Bahrain. We have the talent, we just need the support and create a suitable ground for them, then we will see Bahraini cinema flying,” he said. ”

said that Bahraini talents are working extremely hard to create a successful film industry in the Kingdom.

"There are many talented Bahrainis in many segments of film-making such as directing, cinematography, writing and acting, who hope for Bahrain to expand as a hub for film-making in the region. I can truly see the potential of Bahrain becoming a place where talented individuals can expand their creative muscles," she said. Bahrainis definitely have the talent and the passion, but many lack the opportunity to show it. It would be ideal if filmmakers experiment and try

to produce films, short films or features. This is a right way to get exposure and develop a film community, she added.

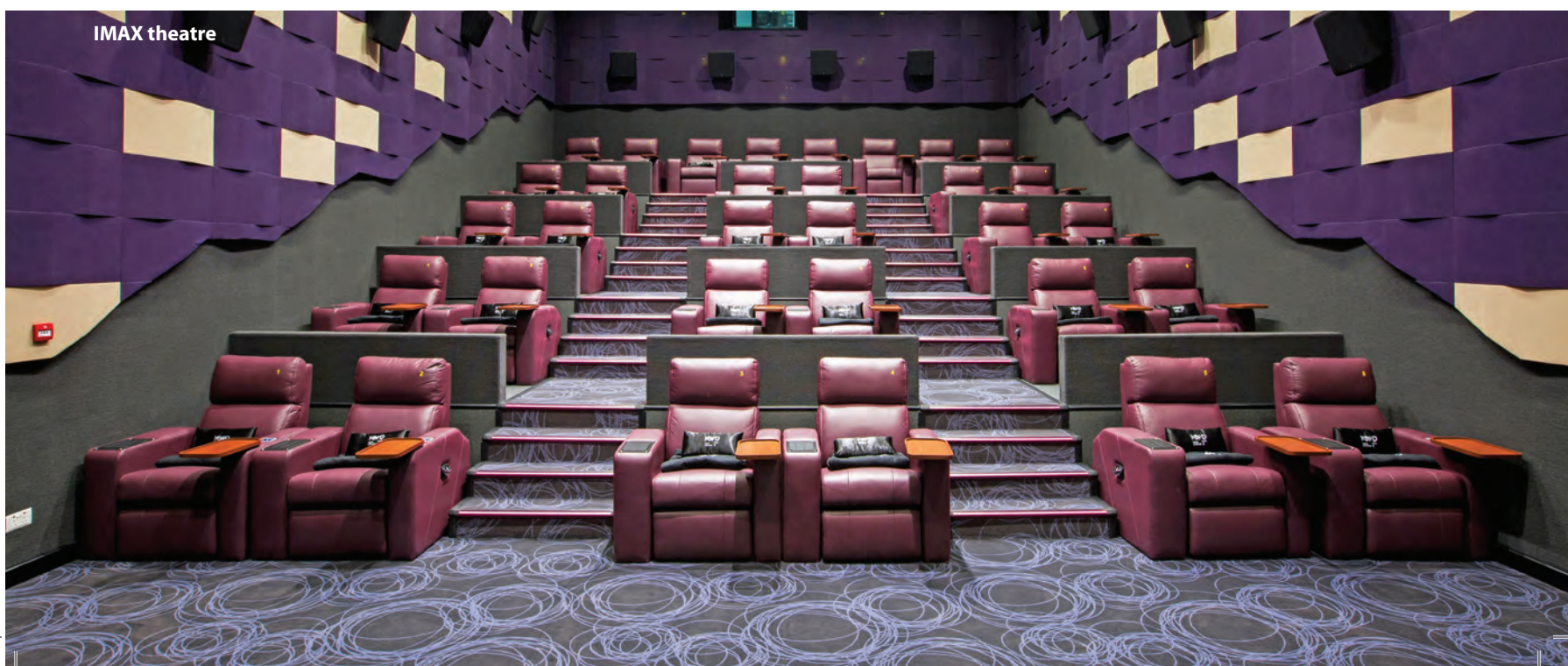
In October, makers of the multi-million dollar television series 'The Banker' announced that they chose Bahrain ahead of its GCC peers for the shooting of the series. According to them, the move will boost Bahrain's economy and reputation. "This is a great opportunity for the people of Bahrain, the government; and it will be an enormous boost to the economy. Apart from the 80 to 100 million dollar budget for the show, there are also job opportunities for locals. Local actors are expected to play a serious role in the show," said Keith Bulfin, who is spearheading the project.



Saleh Sharif



Ameera Al Qaed





Bassam honoured by Shaikh Nasser

SILVER SCREEN MAESTRO

Santhosh Rajendran

Bassam Mohammed Al Thawadi, born on December 13, 1960, is a veteran Bahraini filmmaker and film director. He is a well-established mediaperson, known for producing Bahrain's first feature film, *The Barrier*, in 1990. The film is considered as a regional first in filmmaking experiment.

The movie addresses social and emotional barriers imposed upon individuals by society and also with those that the individual imposes upon himself. The characters in the movie lack the ability to communicate and convey with each other and therefore, fails to understand their own feelings. Hence, they fail to maintain healthy relationships with each other because of the lack of love amongst them. This failure is assigned to the surrounding environment that does not allow for healthy relationships to grow and prosper.

Bassam works as the Acting General-Director of Bahrain Radio and Television Corporation and is a founding member of the GCC Cinema Society. He is also the founder and Director-in-General of the first Arab Cinema Festival in Bahrain. He had directed numerous short films and also commercials, educational and cultural programmes during his tenure in the Bahrain Radio and Television Corporation as well as performing in plays. He was the chairman of the Al Sawari Video Festival of 1994 and a member of the judging committee of the Baghdad International Television & Film Festival in 1988.

He organised the New Egyptian Cinema Days Festival in Bahrain in 1993, and was the director of the fifth Arab Music Festival in 1996.

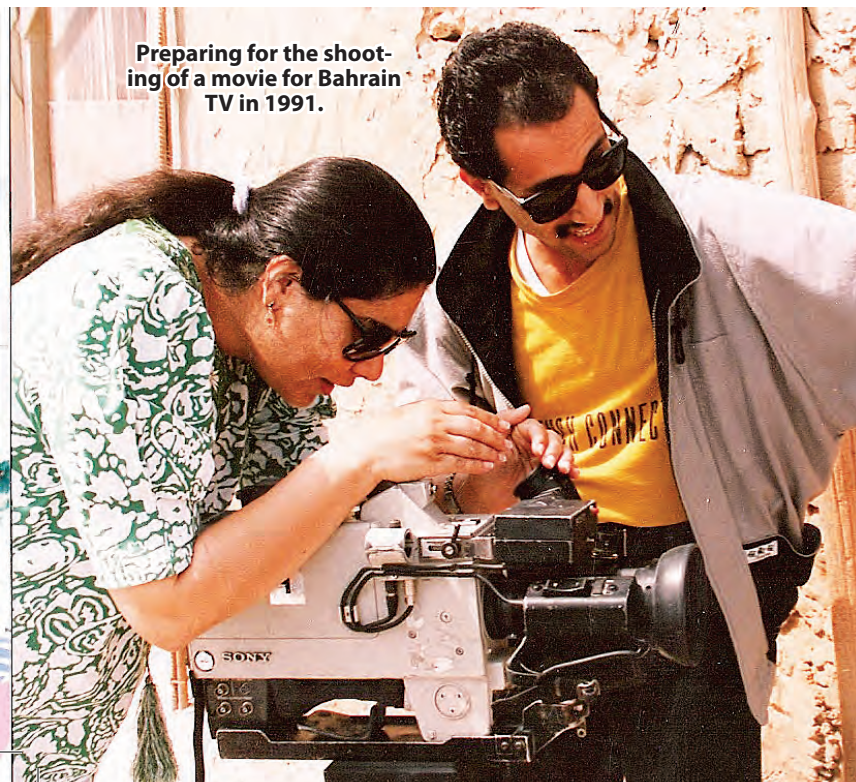
Bassam Mohammed Al Thawadi was born in Gudaibiya, Bahrain in December 1960. Bassam's father worked in nearby Saudi Arabia in the 1960s, and it was during this time that Bassam developed an interest in photography. In 1979, he studied filming at the Higher Institute of Cinema at the Academy of Arts in Cairo, Egypt and graduated in 1982.

During his study, he directed a short drama film, *Al Qina'a* (The Mask) shot on 16mm and his graduation project was a short drama, *Malaekat Al Ardh* (Angels of the Earth).

Some of his noted documentary works are: *Al Bahrain Wajh Mushreq* (The Shining Face of Bahrain) in 1986, *Watan Wa Muwatin* (A Nation and a Citizen) in 1987, *The Intellectual and Cultural Relationship between*



Shooting of a movie for Diar Al Muharraq-1 in progress.



Preparing for the shooting of a movie for Bahrain TV in 1991.



“... known for producing Bahrain’s first feature film, *The Barrier*, in 1990. The film is considered as a regional pioneer in film-making. The movie addresses social and emotional barriers imposed upon individuals by society and also with those that the individual imposes upon himself. The characters in the movie lack the ability to communicate and convey with each other and therefore, fails to understand their own feelings.”

Bassam during the shooting



Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in 1986, *The Citizen- The Tree of Life* in 1987, *New Dawn* in 1986, *Arad Fort* in 1988, *Priceless Pearls* in 1997, *Pure Pearls* 1998, *Bahrain (The Island of the shining smile)* in 1998, *Bahrain Flower of Love* in 1999 and *Endurance Race* in 2001.

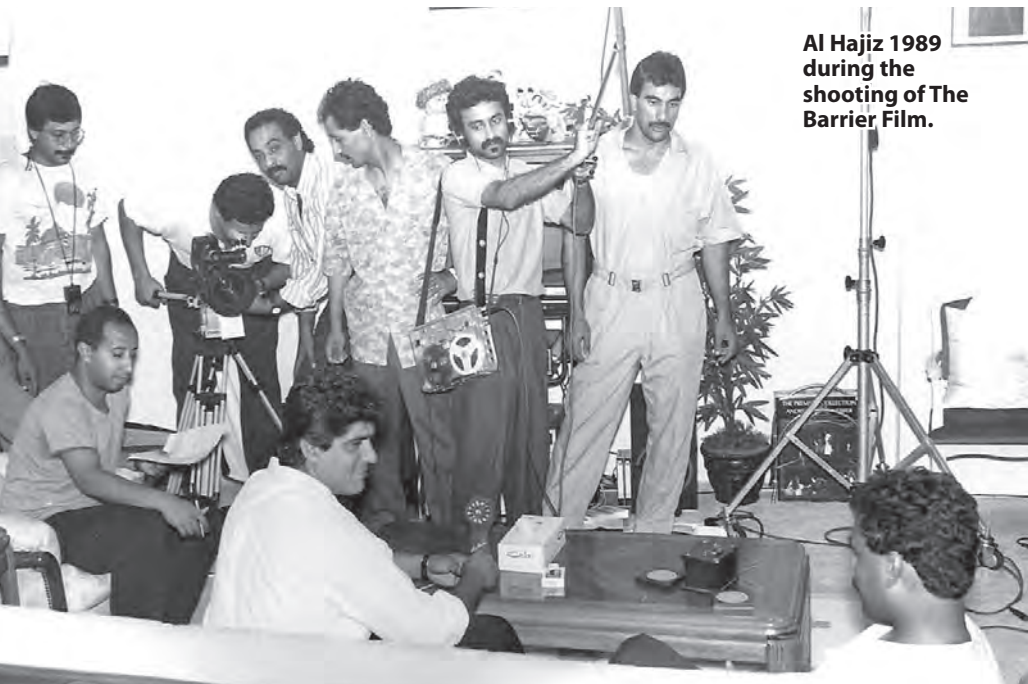
He was also selected as one of the judging committees in various international film festivals such as, Baghdad International Television and Film Festival 1988, The Fourth International Radio and Television Festival in Cairo 1998, The Sixth Gulf Television Production Festival held in Bahrain in March 1999, The State Appreciation Award in Arts, Culture, Literature and Social and Humane Sciences in Kuwait in 2001-2002-2003-2004, The Arab Film Festival in Paris–Documentary Films section in 2002, Al Jazeera Documentary International Film Festival in Doha, Qatar, April 2007, Dubai International Film Festival – December 2007, Damascus International Film Festival – November 2008, Gulf Film Festival – Dubai April 2011 and Abu Dhabi Film Festival October 2014.

He joined Bahrain TV on May 4, 1985, and had produced a variety programmes for the channel. He also produced programmes which were broadcast in all Arab countries which are members of the Arab States Broadcasting Union. The film *The Barrier* is widely considered to be the first feature film produced in Bahrain, the film has been entered into several regional and international film festivals, generally winning good reviews. In 2004, he directed and co-produced the film - *Visitor*, considered to be the second feature film produced in Bahrain and first Dolby sound system in the Gulf. Between

those two films he directed many documentary films. In 2006 he directed *A Bahraini Tale*, the third feature film produced in Bahrain and first DTS sound system in the Gulf. The movie was critically acclaimed by local and international critics.



During acting for a Jordanian movie in 1982.



Al Hajiz 1989 during the shooting of *The Barrier* Film.



Honoured by Shaikh Majed Al Maktoom at Dubai Film Festival

A MONTH OF FUN AND SHOPPING AT THE BAHRAIN SHOPPING FESTIVAL

'Shop Bahrain' Launches on the 24th of December, 2015



“**'Shop Bahrain' will witness the comeback of the much-awaited Al Riwaq's 'The Nest', a local bazaar held in Adliya showcasing the latest talents from Bahrain and the region. In addition, food lovers will also enjoy the return of 'The Taste Tour' held in Block 338, Adliya. Both events will be launched on 10th December 2015 and will run until 9th of January 2016.**



The second-edition of the Bahrain Shopping Festival, 'Shop Bahrain', will be launched this year on 24th December, 2015; making it the largest entertainment event to be held in the Kingdom. The festival, running until the 23rd January 2016, will celebrate the Kingdom's culture and hospitality providing a unique shopping experience for residents and visitors along with a number of promotions, offers and great prizes. 'Shop Bahrain' will witness the comeback of the much-awaited Al Riwaq's 'The Nest', a local bazaar held in Adliya showcasing the latest talents from Bahrain and the region. In addition, food lovers will also enjoy the return of 'The Taste Tour' held in Block 338, Adliya. Both events will be launched on 10th December 2015 and will run until 9th of January 2016. 'Shop Bahrain' brings together an exciting calendar of events including 'VIVA Shop & Skate', the largest outdoor ice-skating rink in the GCC region housed outside Al A'ali Shopping Complex. The 'VIVA Shop & Skate' will open its doors to the public during the festival and will also feature a shopping bazaar and other special attractions during the weekend. This event is dubbed

to be 'one that the family can enjoy' and will be featured live on the Festival's website. 'The Family Fair', a two-day carnival held during the New Year's Eve Weekend at Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park in Hidd, will bring together an array of fun family activities. The festival, held on 31st December 2015 and 1st January 2016, will feature games, entertainment activities and mouth-watering cuisine. Other fun-filled attractions include in-mall activities such as Bungee Jumping held in Al A'ali Shopping Complex, as well as in-door rock climbing among other entertainment activities. Shoppers can also avail from the latest promotions offered by the participating Shopping Malls and retail outlets as well as the opportunity to win many great prizes. With the purchase of BD10 or more, shoppers will be registered in a loyalty scheme enabling them to enter the weekly and grand raffle draw. For more information about 'Shop Bahrain' Festival and its calendar of events and promotions, please visit the official 'Shop Bahrain' website www.shopbahrain.com or follow the official account across all social media channels @shopbahrain





A SWISS HOSPITALITY CAREER FOR YOU

The Hospitality and Tourism sector in Bahrain has seen remarkable growth during the last two years. According to statistics, more than 10 million people visited Bahrain, a growth of 11.1 per cent over 2013;

the pioneer in hospitality and retail education, has entered into partnership with Hotel and Tourism Management Institute, (HTMi), Sorenberg, to deliver Swiss Hospitality Diploma here in Bahrain. The two year Diploma program comprises of Swiss standards, international procedures, practical and technical knowledge and has drawn a lot of local and expatriate students to the program. The HTMi program offered in Bahrain is designed to provide students training in demo restaurants, commercial kitchen, Front office, Human resources and training at Management Level. "The tourism sector in the Kingdom is set to benefit from the launch of a number of important hotel projects as well as renewed expansion by the national carrier. The hospitality sector was among the major drivers of growth in the Bahrain economy. We, at BIHR – HTMi strive to develop students into competitive leaders to face the challenges that will be met in the hospitality industry" said Mr. Nigel Viegas, Director BIHR – HTMi. BIHR and HTMi have trained faculty to provide students with not only professional but technical knowledge and skills to be competitive in the market. BIHR – a division of A. Dadabai group of companies has been into training and supporting young Bahrainis in the

Bahrain's hotels registered occupancy rate of 50.2 per cent last year - an increase of 11.6 per cent over 2013. Such a steep growth echoes the need for an increase of qualified and suitable manpower supply in the hospitality and tourism industry. Keeping this in mind, Bahrain Institute of Hospitality and Retail, (BIHR),





“The tourism sector in the Kingdom is set to benefit from the launch of a number of important hotel projects as well as renewed expansion by the national carrier. The hospitality sector was among the major drivers of growth in the Bahrain economy”

Hospitality, Tourism and Retail sector since 1999. The faculty and staff of BIHR – HTMi are highly trained, competent and have intensive knowledge and expertise required in meeting the demands of the hospitality and tourism industry. “By training at BIHR - HTMi, students now get a chance of experiencing Swiss hospitality training from a world class learning institute thus providing them with a strong foundation to start an exciting international hospitality career.” Mr. Viegas further stated.

For more information on course program and admission at BIHR - HTMi, kindly contact BIHR at 17698880 or Toll Free No 8000 1077.



Congratulations

We extend our best wishes to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, The Crown Prince & Deputy Supreme Commander

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of **National Day**

AL NOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL: VISION YIELDS OUTSTANDING RESULTS



Al Noor International School has become one of the top international schools in the Gulf. The school recently held its certificate awards ceremony at the Gulf International Convention Centre and in the process it celebrated the sixteenth batch of IGCSE, fifteenth batch of AS Level and fourteenth batch of A Level students to have successfully completed the Cambridge International Examinations Board examinations. Out of a total of 353 students who received their certificates, 148 were from the IGCSE section, 103 from AS Level and 102 from A Level. More than 50 per cent of the students who wrote the IGCSE examinations obtained A*s, A's and B's. It was the vision of its Founder and Chairman, Ali Hasan and the commitment of its patron, which saw Al Noor emerge in 1993 from its humble beginnings in Mahooz to the vast institution it is today, supporting the families of a very large section of the Bahrain population. At the same time, Mr Ali recognised the need for a school

which would provide a family ethos and access to a range of curricula, while remaining affordable to those who would otherwise not have the funds for a private education.

With this in mind, he sought the guidance of the University of Cambridge to provide the British Curriculum starting from Grade 1 and culminating in Advanced Level qualifications. Al Noor has been recognised as a Fellowship Centre for Cambridge International Exams, a distinction shared by very few international schools in the Gulf. Besides the British Curriculum, Al Noor offers as other options, both the Bahraini and the CBSE curricula. This means that students, on completing their KG years, are able to choose from three curricula, all of which prepare students to enroll at universities and colleges throughout the world. Al Noor is also a recognised exam centre for Ministry of Examinations for Grades 9 to 12. The fact that the eighth group of Bahraini section Grade 12 students appeared for their final year exams in June 2015 and achieved a 100% pass

with high marks, is equally remarkable and noteworthy.

Part of the school's mission is to provide a comprehensive education to the students of Indian curriculum within a conducive multicultural environment, aiming at their all-round development. Being a recognised CBSE Centre, the eighth batch of Grade 10 and fifth batch of grade 12 students who wrote the exams in March 2015 have achieved an excellent pass rate.

Over the years, the school's management has given prominence to modern trends in education and this focus has resulted in further assistance and commitment from Cambridge. Greater emphasis was placed on teacher training and development, recognising the need for well-trained, confident teachers. Earlier this year the eleventh group of teachers was awarded their Cambridge Diplomas, having successfully completed the one-year Cambridge Diploma Course. Al Noor has responded positively to the need for greater emphasis in the area of information technology and it is now

possible for students throughout the school to qualify for Cambridge ICT diplomas at various levels, in addition to their IGCSE, AS and A Level qualifications. These certificates provide an added incentive to students to improve their proficiency and ultimately keep up with the pace of technological developments.





Congratulations

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

The King of Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

The Prime Minister of Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and
First Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the

44th BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY



AL NOOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

P.O.Box: 85, Kingdom of Bahrain

Tel : 17736773, Fax: 17735650

Email: roonlasc@batelco.com.bh

www.alnischool.com

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Bahrain Indian School, a new approach to teaching



Mr. NK Ramachandran Menon

Values and ethics are the focus at newly opened Bahrain Indian School (BIS) as much as academic studies, said its Director, Mrs. Ritu Verma. She added that she wanted the school to be a place where children are taught about values in life as much as academic studies. Setting up schools is her way of giving back to the community. The school's 'No Homework and No Private Tuition' offers a unique approach to teaching as well as learning to Bahrain, she said. "We do not just teach the students lessons from the text books; we focus on teaching them how to learn the lessons in the best manner."

The school employs a child-centred approach where each child is given care and guidance individually. She also stressed that the school strives towards making the children physically fit, mentally alert, morally sound, emotionally balanced, technically talented and spiritually inclined. The school also takes pride in its 'no child left behind' policy. "Every child has a talent, he/she may not demonstrate it by topping the class in terms of academics, but may be good at sports or writing or painting. We want to bring out the talent in all of our students. For this reason we only hire highly qualified teaching staff."

BIS has a 'digital campus,' an online facility which enables parents and students to view study material over the internet. "Teachers and students will be able to view the syllabus, lesson plans and other class materials through this system. This will also help parents keep track of what their children are doing in school." BIS is committed to improve the facilities in the school and adding more extra-curricular activities. BIS plans to build a multi-purpose hall for which various approvals have been obtained from various government authorities. BIS is affiliated to Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (Bhavans) which has more than 400





Mrs. Ritu Verma

“Schools are a part of social service and that’s how I view it. Of course it makes sense in a business perspective as well but the social aspect is what intrigues me the most”

schools in India. Mr. Ramachandran, who is Bhavans Middle East Chairman said that he wanted the school to be a place to learn values in life as much as it is a place for academic studies. Mr. Ramachandran who is also the director of the overseas operation of Bhavans has set up schools all over the GCC except Saudi Arabia. BIS is his seventh establishment in the Middle East. The other investments include, Indian Educational School in Kuwait, Jack & Jill- Preprimary school in Kuwait, Private International English School in Abu Dhabi, Modern International School in Oman, and Al Saad Indian School in Al Ain and Abu Dhabi. “Schools are a part of social service and

that’s how I view it. Of course it makes sense in a business perspective as well but the social aspect is what intrigues me the most,” he said. Bahrain’s investor-friendly nature also played a part while deciding to establish the school. “Bahrain is a friendly country; there aren’t many hassles you face as an investor. The paperwork always comes through quickly and assistance is provided quickly. There are more than 40 nationalities in this island and all nationalities are given equal importance.” He added that currently, an indoor sports facilities and multipurpose hall were being built in the school.



The Chairman, Board of Directors and all employees of Bahrain Indian School
Extend warmest greetings to

His Majesty
King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

His Royal Highness
Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness
Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister
the Royal family, Government and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain

on the occasion of the 44th National Day of the Kingdom of Bahrain
and the Anniversary of His Majesty’s Accession to the Throne



Happy
National Day

Bahrain Indian School [Managed by
Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan]

PO Box 31595, Budaiya, Kingdom Of Bahrain Ph :- +973 17598000 Fax :- +973 17598080
www.bhavansbahrain.com



SETTING NEW STANDARDS



City International English School provides a broad and balanced education for students, with a strong academic focus in a positive and pleasant environment, which will enable children to learn and grow academically, socially, creatively and emotionally. The school was established in 2008 to provide a balanced and challenging education based principles and curricula to meet the needs of the children of the Bahrain and expatriate communities. In 2009, the School further strengthened its commitment to its international outlook by the introduction of the IGCSE and AS/A level course which provides entrance to universities and colleges worldwide. Student Strength per class is twenty to twenty-four in the Junior School & Senior School. The education system, besides providing an all-round education intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically, also offers guidance in critical thinking, social openness and in purposeful research.

Students are given opportunities to develop their own talents as well as to be aware of national and global issues, while contributing to the healthy development of the needs of their won school campus and community. Homework is given to encourage and develop independent study skills and to complement particular fields of study. A homework timetable is issued to all students who are required to complete the work as assigned by subject teachers. The school welcomes children of all nationalities and offers a true International



education through the International curriculum programme. The school provides all-round education ensuring intellectual, social, emotional and physical well being. It also offers guidance in critical thinking, social openness and in purposeful research. Students are encouraged to be abreast about national and global issues. The management of the schools says that its expectations are high,



“The diverse international student body leads to the natural development of goodwill, friendliness, tolerance and understanding among the students.”



not only from the students but also from the staff as well. Each of them is expected to understand the value of a caring and motivational atmosphere and be aware of the need to work in partnership with parents for the future success of the students. The school promotes the

values of respect, compassion, trust, honesty and good manners.

Highlights

- It offers your child the opportunity to study in a big, lively and friendly school with a good

combination of nationalities.

- Comfortable and newly renovated classrooms with state of the art Computer and Science Labs.
- Highly qualified, dedicated and most competent teachers using child- centered teaching methods.
- Language classes for French,

Urdu and Arabic.

- Clinic facilities with qualified and experienced medical professionals for any emergency situation.
- The confidence and quality assurance that comes with each and every study program at City International English School.



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TOP QUALITY EDUCATION & TRAINING
AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE

The City School aims to provide the students with a safe and caring environment that enables them to maximize achievement through a rich variety of educational experiences, install programs which help student to develop their abilities and to become productive members of society.

KG TO GRADE 10 (O LEVELS)

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NMS- DPS: WHERE YOUNG MINDS BLOOM

The New Millennium School – DPS Bahrain has literally redefined education since its inception and changed its countenance by incorporating the play way and self – inquiry method. Started in April 2004 with 232 students, it presently caters to over 2100 students from KG1 to Grade XII. Under the able leadership of Dr. Ravi Pillai (Padmashree Awardee), the school envisions ‘Nurturing Responsible Global Citizens.’ Dr. Pillai, Chairman of R P Group of Companies, is a well-known business leader and renowned philanthropist who believes that better world can be made only by better education. The state-of-the-art campus provides ample facility for students to not only pursue academic excellence but also explore their co-scholastic potential. The school campus boasts 80 high-tech classrooms with smart board aiding interactive learning and communication, multi-purpose hall for sports activities and school events, swimming pool, gymnasium, table tennis court, football ground, badminton courts, cricket pitch, running track and well equipped laboratories and libraries. The CCA block includes dance and music suites and also has facilities for mind development programmes like yoga, meditation and martial arts like Karate. All key areas including classrooms are equipped with CCTV cameras to ensure safety and security of young children.

Highlights:

- Ideal student teacher ratio (12:1).
- Personal attention to each child.
- 100 % result in C.B.S.E.
- Many students are awarded with merit certificate by CBSE for being among the top 0.1% of the students in AISSCE.
- Perfect scorers (2400/2400) in SAT Subject Tests.
- Many selections in universities of repute including Berkeley, CALTECH, Purdue, IITs and other best institutions in USA, Canada, U.K. and India.
- Result oriented C.B.S.E. focus with orientation for competitive examinations like IIT-JEE, SAT, National/International Olympiads, NTSE.
- Outstanding performance in CBSE Cluster Sports Meet.
- To nurture young global leaders, active participation in all Model United Nations conferences organised by different institutions.
- Highly qualified, experienced and dedicated staff, appointed by the DPS Society.
- Emphasis on life skills, character building and personality development.
- Balanced curricular & co-curricular activities to develop complete personality.
- Regular faculty development programme organised by the DPS Society, New Delhi – India.
- Teaching methodology aided by IYC learning and management software system.
- Excursions abroad.
- Up to 90% scholarship scheme for grade XI & XII students.

Methodology & learning:

NMS – DPS, believes that personal growth and character development are the foundation of a successful and independent life. Skills lessons help to develop personal qualities such as self-esteem, self-discipline, integrity, honesty, responsibility, sociability and personal wellness for healthy living. High-tech classrooms are equipped with



magic board and interactive projector aided by IYC interactive learning and content management software system. Each student and parent is provided with individual login ID and password to enable them to interact and share information with the faculties. Parents are able to monitor the progress of their ward using the new software. NMS is the first school in the Kingdom to introduce this system in the whole school.

The Board results year after year are record breaking with 100 percent success rate. NMS-DPS had produced an outstanding result in the Board Examinations. In 2014 & 2015 NMS-DPS' students were island toppers in the Science & Humanities stream and many had achieved a position at the CBSE's prestigious top 0.1 percentage (0.1%) list. An equally commendable result was achieved in Grade X also. The subject average of our students in most of the subjects is the highest among all the CBSE Schools on the island.

To ensure even the better result, the Chairman has been magnanimous enough to announce scholarship scheme for the outstanding performers. The faculties are subjected to various leadership programmes and familiarised with the latest developments in the field of education.

The school is roaring towards success by leaps and bounds. Under the able leadership of Dr. Ravi Pillai, Chairman, Geetha Pillai, Managing Director, Arun Kumar Sharma, Principal and with the incessant efforts of the parents, staff and students, the school is bound to reach many milestones in the future.



The Management, Staff and Students of New Millennium School - DPS congratulate and extend warmest greetings to:

His Majesty King **Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**,

His Royal Highness **Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**, the Prime Minister,

His Royal Highness Prince **Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa**,
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier,

And the People of Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of

NATIONAL DAY



New Millennium School- DPS

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, Tel: 17 272700, Fax: 17 275151, Email: nmsedu@nmsedu.bh





IT'S TIME TO PONDER ON EDUCATION HUB

Muhammad Azam

It was 2007 when Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa had vowed to establish Bahrain as the hub of higher education in the region but still the things have not moved so far. Has the time not yet come for the policy makers to start working on the vision of deputy prime minister to turn the Kingdom into an education hub? In the face of sharp fall in the oil prices, Bahrain has already expressed its intention to look for ways to diversify its economy from oil to the service sectors. Why not create a free zone and build the education city in Bahrain? The education hub could open doors for all the big universities around the world, providing them incentives and a friendly atmosphere so that they feel delighted to come and open their campuses here in Bahrain. But they must be bound to impart the same education they are providing at their own countries.

It is high time that Bahrain can open a new door of investment by making an education city asking all the leading universities to open their campuses in Bahrain. If a student aspiring for qualitative higher education from India, Pakistan or from any other part of the Arabian region finds the campus of Oxford University or Cambridge University here



“Bahrain will not become hub of education unless the government opens the doors of research in the higher education. It is the research that has opened the doors for others and it’s the same that will open the doors for us, so open the doors of research immediately.”



in Bahrain, why would he travel thousands miles away from home to UK or USA for that purpose?
 “Encourage the private sector to open new and high standard universities in Bahrain. And let the foreign universities open their campuses here. It will heighten the standard of education as the atmosphere of competition will augment among the local universities as well,” says an education expert Salah ud Din Bhinder.
 Bahrain will not become hub of education unless the government opens the doors of research in the higher education. It is research that has opened the doors for others. Therefore, the Kingdom also has the onus to open doors to research activities. To achieve this purpose, a group of think tanks should be established so that they could suggest some recommendations as to how to develop a system attracting the best brains from across the world.
 The quality of education needs improvement. Much work is being done in the primary level, says the expert. Unfortunately the higher education sector is being neglected. Same dedication which we put at the primary level is required at the higher level.
 Open immigration for the highly skilled people and top professionals from around the world and let them play their part in the building and development of Bahrain. Give Bahraini passports to the big brains and make the point system for the immigration.
 Set up good universities here and bring the best universities from across the world.
 Start competitive examinations to fill the highest positions in the government departments.
 Every country has its own chartered accountant institute, why not for Bahrain? Let us create our own standard chartered accountant institute here in the Kingdom. University of Bahrain has high standards but the private universities do not come up to the mark, says Mr. Bhinder.
 Bahrain University should announce that the competent students may come for higher studies from across the world and especially from the Middle East, he suggests.
 “Make the necessary changes in the education system. Writing power of the students is diminishing. Multiple choice question papers have done a great loss to the writing power of the students. It is a good system but up to a certain level. Major portion of the exams must be in writing and the writing ability of the students must be developed at all levels because writing ‘maketh an exact man,’ the expert says.
 According to him, in the present education system, the student is not working hard but the teacher. If a student does not work, his talents will be killed. Readymade assignments are shown at the projector and it is done by the teacher and there is no effort on the part of the students. “Here teacher has been converted into an employee. When student does not respect the teacher, he will not get the knowledge. We are selling information in the schools not the knowledge,” says the educationist.

Examination system needs to be overhauled, he says, adding that, in the private sector, the teacher, the paper setter and the examiner are one and the same. So, the teachers teach the students selective subjects and not the whole syllabus and the depth of knowledge, which must be developed in the students is not developed, Mr. Bhinder says.
 “Begin the competitive examination among the students of matric and intermediate irrespective of sex and gender. The concept of the competition has become obsolete among the students. Much concentration is on the paperwork for higher education while research is stopped. Develop research and set up think tanks if you really want to make Bahrain the hub of education,” he suggests.

Congratulations
 On the special occasion of Bahrain's
National Day 2015



We wish to convey warmest greetings and our best wishes to
His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa
 The King of Bahrain
His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa
 The Prime Minister
His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa
 The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander & First Deputy Prime Minister
 and the people of the kingdom of Bahrain.



PAKISTAN SCHOOL
 KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
 Tel: 17682304, Fax: 17682320



A STORY OF EXCELLENCE

The Asian School, Bahrain, which started with a strength of only 65 students and 5 teachers, now proudly provides education to 3370 students with a staff strength of more than 165 teaching and non-teaching members. Founded in 1983, The Asian School today is a full-fledged secondary school, enrolling students in Classes LKG through X. It focuses on delivering world class education to its students and maintains a teacher student ratio of 1:25. The all round


development of the child is the aim of education here, hence a variety of subjects are taken care of by specialists.

The school is housed in a modern, purpose built campus sprawling across 8 acres in Tubli. Apart from 110 full-fledged classrooms, state of the art science laboratories, math lab, smart classrooms, well equipped modern computer laboratories and a large well stocked library, the school also has a spacious auditorium; Dr. Abdul Kalam Memorial Auditorium, which can accommodate around 2700 people. The multi-purpose hall also boasts of an indoor basketball court, an indoor volleyball/throwball court, four indoor badminton courts, table tennis tables and gymnastics areas. The school compound has a regulation size football ground, three basketball courts, three volleyball/throwball courts, one tennis court and a long jump/high jump pit. There is an outdoor stage to accommodate an audience of over 5000. The kindergarten section has a special shaded play area, covered by the school building on three sides and fitted with playground equipment. The school has sent 19 batches of students to the All India Secondary School Certificate Examination conducted by the CBSE and all the batches have come out with excellent cent percent pass results. The school continues to win many accolades by way of intra and inter school activities. The school's methodical functioning, strict discipline and high ideals, coupled with the school motto, 'Lead Kindly Light' have been lauded by the residents of the Kingdom of Bahrain and The Asian School remains one of the premier educational institutions on the island.



May our country progress in everywhere and in everything. So that the whole world should be proud of us.

Happy National Day


مدرسة آسيا
THE ASIAN SCHOOL

P.O. Box No. 1143, Tel.-973 17722886, Email: asianscl@batelco.com.bh





SAJI
ANTONY

WOMEN POWER DRIVES GROWTH

Muhammad Azam

“There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women,” reads the famous quote of the former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. No country in the Middle East has understood this quote better than Bahrain. That is why the Bahraini government has been gradually empowering the women in all the fields.

Twenty first century is the century of women and Bahrain knows this fact very well. Women in Bahrain are enjoying very high positions in all segments of society and many of them can be seen at leading and decision making positions. There is not even a single profession in the Kingdom where women are not offering their services.

The health sector of Bahrain is completely dominated by the women. The women here occupied the top three positions - Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh being the Minister of Health and Dr. Aysha Mubarak Buanq is her Undersecretary while Fatima A. Wahid Al Ahmed holds the position of Assistant Undersecretary for Human Resources and Services. And the only regulatory body, the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) is also headed by a woman - Dr. Mariam Al Jalahma. Dr. Al Jalahma, consultant family physician by profession, earlier held the post of Assistant Undersecretary for Primary Care and Public Health at the Ministry of Health.

Speaking to *DT News* on the occasion of Bahrain National Day and the 16th Anniversary of HM King Hamad's Accession to the Throne, the minister said that the Bahraini women had emerged as leaders and visionaries not only at all levels of government, but also in business, media and civil society. Their example stands as an inspiration for the next generation.

“In Bahrain, more women than ever are taking leadership roles in various fields. We affirm that empowering women promotes stability, security, and prosperity,” she says, “Every woman in Bahrain has a shining example to look up to in HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa's powerful leadership which touched the lives of all Bahraini women.”

“The women have travelled a long and challenging road, but the achievements we as Bahraini women have seen over the last several decades are a reminder that a real progress is possible,” adds Ms. Faeqa.

She said that the government was firmly committed to advance women's political and economic empowerment and they knew from their experience that HM the King was always supporting the role of Bahraini women and he had made enormous strides in ensuring that all



Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh, Health Minister





Dr Mariam Al Jalahma



Dr Aysha Buanq



Fatima A. Wahid Al Ahmed

girls and women had the opportunity to make full use of their talents and abilities.

The role of women in Bahrain has changed a lot over the decades as they are no more the same women of 1960s whose roles solely depended on the role of their husbands. Now there are almost one quarter of the women who are holding jobs outside the household. The Bahraini women have surpassed the women of other Arab countries by taking active roles in the public lives.

According to the statistics of Supreme Council for Women (SCW) during the academic year 2011-2012, female students remained the highest receivers of grants and scholarships.

The percentage of female students in higher education institutions in Bahrain constituted to 61%, outperforming the number of male students which was 39%.

The women surpassed the men in higher education as the percentage of female graduates from government universities and institutes out of the total graduates for the academic year 2010 - 2011 was 57.69%, compared to the male graduates which reached 42.31%.

Illiteracy levels were almost non-existent during the years 2001 – 2010. The women enjoy more lifespan than men as the average life expectancy for women increased from 69.5 to 77.3 years old and from 65.6 to 73.1 years for men during the time period 1975 – 2010.

Bahrain was the first Gulf state to have education for women in 1928 and also the first Gulf state to have social organisations for women in 1965. In 2005, the Royal University for Women (RUW) became the first private university of international standard in Bahrain dedicated purely for the education of women.

The women in Bahrain gained their right to vote during the parliamentary elections in October 2002. In short Bahrain is keen on the concept of the empowerment of women and is advancing the status of women very generously.

WARM GREETINGS TO

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa,
His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister
His Royal Highness, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince,
Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier of the
Kingdom of Bahrain

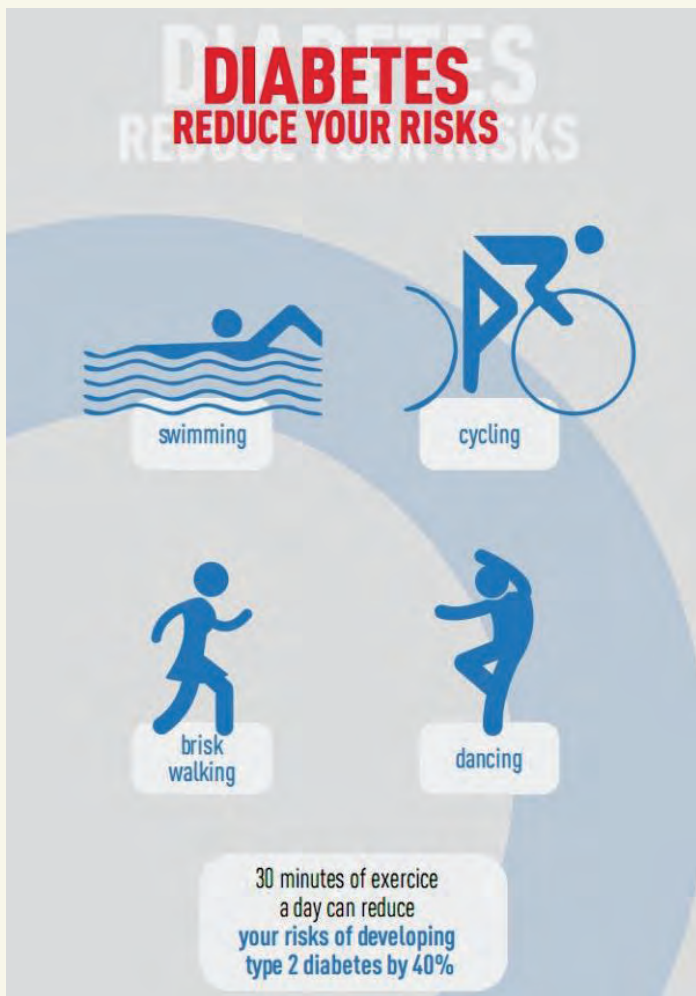
and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of
NATIONAL DAY

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SAY NO TO DIABETES

At present, type 1 diabetes cannot be prevented. The environmental triggers that are thought to generate the process that results in the destruction of the body's insulin-producing cells are still under investigation. There is a lot of evidence that lifestyle changes (achieving a healthy body weight and moderate physical activity) can help prevent the development of type 2 diabetes.

Obesity, particularly abdominal obesity, is linked to the development of type 2 diabetes. Weight loss improves insulin resistance and reduces hypertension. People who are overweight or obese should therefore be encouraged to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.

Physical activity is one of the main pillars in the prevention of diabetes. Increased physical activity is important in maintaining weight loss and is linked to reduced blood pressure, reduced resting heart rate,

increased insulin sensitivity, improved body composition and psychological well-being.

A balanced and nutritious diet is essential for health. A healthy diet reduces risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

Other behaviors to consider include: Smoking: a well-established risk factor for many chronic diseases, including diabetes and

its complications. As well as other harmful effects, smoking increases abdominal fat accumulation and insulin resistance. All smokers should be encouraged to quit smoking. However, weight gain is common when quitting smoking and therefore dietary advice on avoiding weight gain should also be given (e.g. managing cravings and withdrawal symptoms by using short bouts of physical activity as a stress-relief activity, rather than eating snacks). Stress and depression: There is evidence of a link between depression and both diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Sleeping patterns: Both short (<6h) and long (>9h) sleep durations may be associated with a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Sleep deprivation may impair the balance of hormones regulating food intake and energy balance. Long sleep durations may be a sign of sleep-disordered breathing or depression and should be treated appropriately. There is also a close association between obesity and obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome (OSA), the most common form of sleep disordered breathing.



Dr. Najeeb Aboobacker
Specialist Internist
Al-Hilal Hospital

Congratulations
and best wishes to

His Majesty
King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness
Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness
Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander
And First Deputy Premier of the
Kingdom of Bahrain

And the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of

NATIONAL DAY

Al Hilal Muharrq: 17344700, Al Hilal Riffa: 17495555



مستشفى في الهلال
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Muharrq, Kingdom of Bahrain, Tel: 1734 4700



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**AL HILAL MULTISPECIALTY
MEDICAL CENTER - RIFFA**
Riffa Kingdom of Bahrain Tel: 17495555

PROTECTING THE NATION

Bahrain has a short insurance History when in the 1950s, a group of taxi drivers gathered to make the first mutual insurance company of its kind, in order to abide by the law to buy T.P Liability insurance cover for their vehicles . In 1955 this society became the Co-operative Compensation Society to provide insurance for vehicles and other losses arising from accidents. New India Assurance started operation with Mr Ali Abdul Rahman Alwazzan (Intercol) as their Chief Agents in the Kingdom of Bahrain, by a Royal Order dt 19th November 1959 under Queen's regulation No 7 of 1957, issued by Her Britannic Majesty's Political Agents in Bahrain, The British Political Agency. Ever since its start in 1959 when the First Year Insurance was Just Rs 139,000, New India has come a long way in last 55 years steadily moving the growth ladder to a present day business of around BHD 8,000,000. New India now offers most of the Policies off the Shelf at the most Competitive premium rates. These include ,the Motor Insurance Policy backed by a 24x7 Road Assist and Car replacement service. For the traders New India gives

special attention to cover Risks associated with their Property, Plant and Machinery, Stocks, Cash, Loss of Profits, and Employees Health and legal risk leading to focus on Liability policies seeking Insurance protection against a legal claim and high defense worldwide.

New India also provide Credit Insurance in an increasing Payment Default Prone Commercial world, New India's Jewellers comprehensive policy takes care of all the Risk requirements of Bahraini Jewelers. The Money policy covers risk of theft, looting and similar circumstances and Fidelity policies to deal with monetary losses sustained by an Employer due to Infidelity and Breach of Trust/Embezzlement/ Fraud by the employee. The company also provides large scale insurance protection for Construction insurance of all large and Medium Scale Civil, Mechanical and other



Vineet Kumar
Chief Operating Officer

projects. Similarly the fixed assets property insurance for Buildings, Factories, Houses, Warehouses, Shopping Malls, Cold Stores, and offices are a major source for Insurance Revenue of New India. It has recently launched a Worldwide Travel insurance policy to take care of the Bahraini Traveller's business, pleasure or Frequent travels needs to Europe, US/Canada

or Schengen Countries. New India now provides Web based policies on real time basis, renewal alerts on SMS, . It has plans to issue policies online, with customer access portals. However the human interface over a cup of tea is still their core strength . As a Foreign insurance Co, their share of business is more than 27% business share in the overall General Insurance market. And contrary to popular perception, of the total Customer base, the Bahraini customer base is 70% and that of Indians around 30%.

New India is also focusing more on increasing its visibility by way of Radio Ads, Print Ads in many

local newspapers, Sign Boards and social media . It wants to leverage its financial strengths for increasing its market share by assuring the market that the company is here for good and are ready to shoulder the financial risks of Bahrain as a responsible insurance company.

New India enjoys lot of respect amongst its client/customers. It still follows the principle of "Pay If you can, Refuse when you must". While New India is trying out new policies it still remains flexible in their overall claims approach. They are the only company to also do Large Scale Fish Insurance ,Date Palm insurance , Medical Malpractices policies for Hospitals/Doctors and Health Insurance for Senior Citizens above 60 and also a BHD 1000/- Accident Insurance policy for just 500 Fills. If a customer wants peace of mind and assurance of his risk being covered by a financially strong insurer having flexible rules, with friendly staff ready to service even after office hours also, then he must give New India a chance to serve him through their newly refurbished offices at Manama, Hooraa, & Sanad and a soon to be open New office at Busaiteen.

Happy National Day



BEST WISHES FROM

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1959



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OPENING SHORTLY AT BUSAITEEN



The Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif exchanges views with King Hamad at the Joint Services Headquarters in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.



Pakistan Club Chairman Mahmood Rafique and board members and BCCI Executive Board member Sajid Sheikh presenting a plaque to Rear Admiral Moazzam Ilyas Sitara-e-Imtiaz Military during 14th August event at the Pakistan Club.

PAKISTAN & BAHRAIN ENJOY CORDIAL, FRATERNAL TIES



Long live our country and its culture.
Wishing you many congratulations
on this national day.

Happy National Day



The Pakistan Club

(Since 1948)

Mahmood Rafique (Chairman) & Executive Board Members

P. O. Box 118 Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, Tel: 17258520

Email: clubpakistan@gmail.com | Web: pakistanclub.org

The Kingdom of Bahrain and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan enjoy fraternal ties and the successful visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to Pakistan had further strengthened the time-tested ties between the two countries.

His Majesty the King during his first visit to Pakistan held talks with the Prime Minister Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif and the President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain in addition to the high level talks with both civil and military establishments. King Hamad visited the Joint Staff Headquarters where he was received by the Prime Minister and the Chiefs of the three Services, including Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif.

His Majesty's visit to Pakistan reciprocated by Premier Mian Mohammed Nawaz Sharif's visit to Bahrain during which leadership of both countries reviewed and explored the opportunities of enhancing the ties in all vital areas of common interest.

Under the wise leadership, Bahrain has witnessed many strides in economic, political and social development since HM the King announced reforms in 2001.

Since the launch, the reforms march had been fully supported by Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Premier HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa which have impacted positively on the lives of ordinary citizens of Bahrain in addition to creating a sustainable development patterns on economic and political fronts.

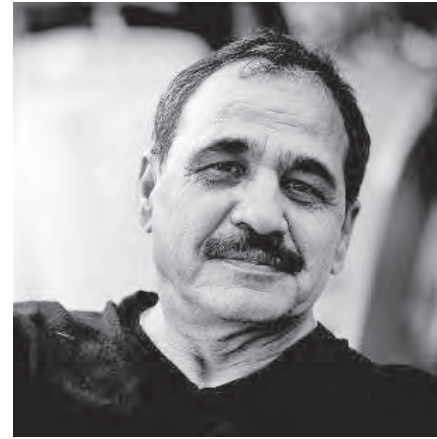
On behalf of members and executive committee of Pakistan Club, I congratulate King Hamad, Prince Khalifa and Prince Salman on the 44th National Day and 16th anniversary of HM King's accession to throne.

Like previous years, at Pakistan Club we have lined up colourful events on December 16 and 17 to celebrate the National Day to express Love and Loyalty with the leadership and Bahrain.



Mahmood Rafique Chaudhry
Chairman, Pakistan Club

DRIVING FORTUNES



Hanco General Manager
M.A. Barlas

Hanco rent a car establishment is a Saudi Arabian Leasing, Car Rental, and Fleet Management Company established in 1976 and is now among the top 3 leasing companies in the Kingdom. Hanco has a network of offices and service centers with skilled employees covering all major cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Having Jeddah as its Headquarters, Hanco operates a fleet size of over 11,000 vehicles and has a network of 5 regional offices, 32 rental outlets and 10 workshop facilities located across Saudi Arabia. Hanco is founded on the core values of quality service, transparency, and respect. These values reflect Hanco's desire to serve



its clients at the highest level and adhere to exceptional standards of excellence and professionalism. It has grown steadily over three decades and has solidified its position within the increasingly important service sector as one of the leaders. In addition, Hanco has developed programs that cater to the corporate sector for both Saudi and multi-national companies. Furthermore, it has

constantly increased its collection of vehicles to suit its vast clientele and in order to provide first class services to its customers. Hanco established its car rental business at major airports and hotels within the Kingdom. Competitive rates and value added services to its clients have made Hanco the preferred partner for a growing list of diverse national and multi-national companies. Hanco's dedication to providing quality operations and personalized services to its customers has been recognized by receiving MENA Travel Awards for the past few years and has also recognized as number 45 in 2009 and number 11 in 2010 in the Saudi Fast Growth Top 100 companies awards.

- ➔ Hanco Fleet Leasing service is an economic solution to provide company vehicles at competitive monthly rates. Whatever the numbers of vehicles, Hanco leasing program offers quality, reliability and flexibility on when and for how long companies require the service. This made Hanco's Fleet Leasing services to be considered amongst the top 3 companies in KSA.
- ➔ Its cliental portfolio covers a wide range of industries dominating the Industrial sector, telecom sector, courier & shipping sector, FMCG sector, financial sector and the retail sectors. All served with a lease period from one year to four years with all types of vehicles.
- ➔ The car rental company offers affordable vehicle rentals for business purpose and pleasure. Being available in 12 cities with over 32 rental locations plus the wide range of vehicles ranging from sedans, 4x4, luxury and commercial vehicles, Hanco is able to cater to all customer needs and wants.
- ➔ In addition, it provides flexible rental duration packages to meet specific needs such as daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly.
- ➔ Hanco chauffeur driven services is offered for any purpose whether for business or pleasure.
- ➔ With safety as the primary goal, our multi-lingual chauffeurs will help you reach your destination from and to airports, offices and hotels.
- ➔ In addition, Hanco chauffeur driven vehicles not only can offer meet and greet services but also a multiple of pick-up and drop-off services such as intra-city and Bahrain transfers, airport transfers, city tours, and customized packages for hajj and umrah transfers.
- ➔ It offers executive vehicles for various occasions and any time frames at competitive rates. Choose from a wide range of options for your different occasions, whether airport transfers, wedding, corporate visits or special events. Hanco will provide you with the best timely solution to fit your needs.
- ➔ The company offers top notch transportation services (including SUVs and Buses) to the pilgrims coming to the holy land for Umrah and Hajj. Hanco works closely with foreign and local travel agencies to ensure quality, punctuality and comfort to the incoming pilgrims.
- ➔ It offers competitive rates for inter city transfers, pick-up and drop-off services to and from airports, offices, homes or hotels. Rates are inclusive of driver and fuel. Vehicles range from saloon cars for 4 passengers, MPV's for 7 passengers, minibuses for groups and executive cars for VIP.



Congratulations





His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
King of Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and
First Deputy Prime Minister

and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the
occasion of the 44th BAHRAIN NATIONAL DAY

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LOOKING AHEAD WITH CONFIDENCE



Mr. Rajesh Kandwal,
CEO & Managing Director

LIC (International) greets all the People of Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the National Day of Bahrain. LIC (International) wishes Success, Peace and Prosperity to all the People of Bahrain.

LIC International has excelled in all areas of operation for the last 26 years and stands out as one of the market leaders in long term/life insurance sector, not only in Bahrain but whole of GCC.

It has been our constant endeavor to come up with different initiatives like launching new and innovative products, mechanization of servicing, mobile application, website, increase in bonus etc. from time to time to make the company stronger year after year. In new business also the company has been performing exceedingly well for the last few years. For the year 2015, the yearly target in new business premium could be achieved before the end of the first half of the year itself. New partnerships with different banks like RAK Bank, Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Mashreq Bank and brokers like Nexus Financial Services and Fakhro Insurance Service have been concluded during the year. The newly introduced mobile application has been found extremely useful by all the customers.

In the recently concluded Board Meeting, Mr. S.K. Roy, Chairman of the Board and Chairman, LIC of India launched the new, revamped, customer friendly and contemporary website of the company in an august gathering in Bahrain.

As of today, the Company has an asset base of USD 1467 million. Under the dynamic leadership of Mr. Rajesh Kandwal, CEO & Managing Director, the Company is poised to touch USD 2 billion landmark before the end of 2017. With its wide and attractive range of products, which offer benefits like reasonable returns, guarantee, life risk, pension etc, it is slowly expanding into other nationalities also.

We extend our faithful respects and sincere gratitude to His Majesty the King of Bahrain, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, His Excellency the Minister of Commerce & Industry for their continued support and co-operation extended to the Company.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Central Bank of Bahrain who has supported us all throughout our operations.

We also thank our esteemed customers for their continued trust and support in our Company.

Congratulations

On the occasion of Bahrain's

National Day



We wish to convey warmest greetings and our good wishes to

His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, The King of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa , The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander & First Deputy Prime Minister

And the people of the kingdom of Bahrain.



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A Company incorporated in the Kingdom of Bahrain (C.R. No. – 21606) and licensed by the Central Bank of Bahrain as a Life Insurance Company with paid-up capital of BD 20,000,000.



THRILLING FLYING DISPLAYS



O P Sreesadan

The fourth Bahrain International Airshow, organized by the Bahrain Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunication (MTT) and the Royal Bahraini Airforce in association with Farnborough International Ltd (FIL), will be hosted at Sakhir Air Base, Kingdom of Bahrain, from 21 – 23 January 2016. BIAS takes place on a biennial basis offering high-level business opportunities to 40 participating companies operating from luxury chalet units. Situated at the Sakhir Airbase the Bahrain International Airshow will enthrall and entertain the whole family. The show will give the opportunity to experience one of the best flying displays in the Middle East and enjoy one of the many attractions on the ground. In addition to the flying display, there are a whole host of attractions to keep all the family entertained. International Airshow will feature an extensive aircraft display both on the ground and in the air. The thrilling flying display



at BIAS will provide hours of spectacular aerial entertainment. In addition to this, MTT has secured a fantastic range of entertaining activities at the Public Arena plus a huge variety of food outlets with selections to suit all tastes.

The first show took place in 2010 with the FIL team working on the planning and development of the Sakhir Airbase the venue for the show. This included the project management of all the ground and building works which involved clearing some 425,000 cubic metres of rock and overseeing the construction contract to build the luxury corporate hospitality chalets at the airbase. Every aspect of the show's development was managed by FIL; sales, aircraft, safety, space planning, ticketing, media relations and marketing. All came to fruition in Bahrain under FIL's meticulous eye and the Bahrain International Airshow quickly established itself as the most elite business-to-business event on the air show calendar.

BIAS 2016 will feature a special hall to display unmanned aircraft (UAV) as well as a dedicated wing to exhibit special equipment and services used to develop infrastructure of airports which will provide opportunities for interaction and communication with exhibitors and visitors.

On the sidelines of the exhibition there will also be various activities which will include a "Host the Buyer" program and a conference titled "Air Transport in the 21st Century" which will be held during the first two days of the show. In addition, a special symposium for the leaders of the Middle East aviation industry will be held a day before the

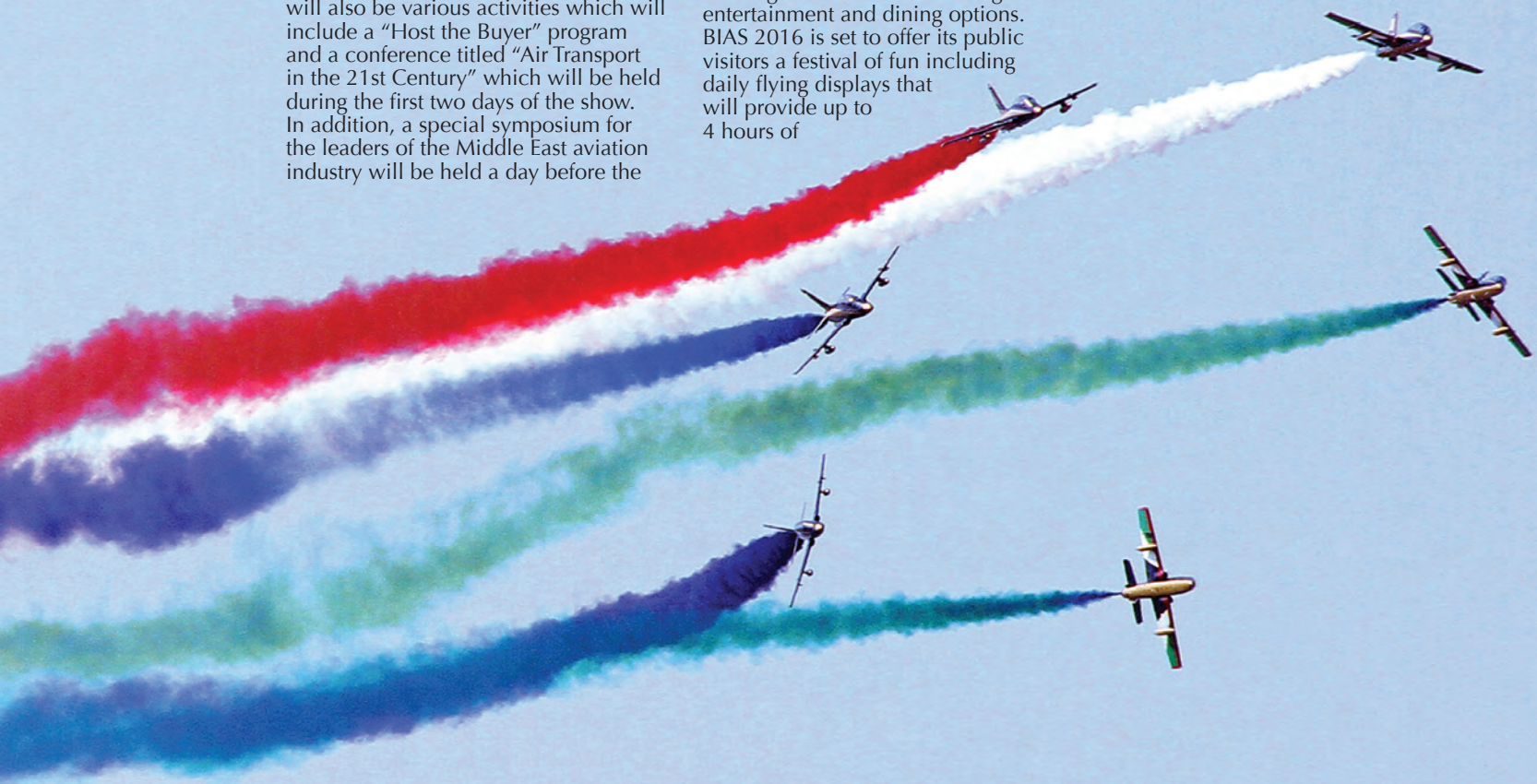


opening, at which main issues of the industry will be discussed. Several international companies have now confirmed their participation at the Bahrain International Airshow 2016, including BAE systems, Boeing, FLEX an Italian Company, Rostec (Russia), Qatar Airlines, Gulfstream and Airbus and other companies working in the civil and military aviation sectors.

Tickets for Bahrain International Airshow 2016 are now available at all Batelco Retail Shops. Adult tickets are priced at BD10 per day with tickets for children, up to 16 years of age, priced at BD5. Discount of 5% is available on the purchase of 20 or more tickets, which can be of any type and for any of the three dates. The tickets are for entrance to the Public Arena which will feature viewing stands and a wide range of entertainment and dining options. BIAS 2016 is set to offer its public visitors a festival of fun including daily flying displays that will provide up to 4 hours of

spectacular aerial entertainment. Some of the confirmed display teams that will be flying high include the Hawks from Saudi Arabia, the UAE's Al Fursan, the Russian Knights and solo aerobatics from Mark Jefferies and the SWIP Twister display team who are set to thrill visitors with their amazing night-time display.

The action and speed in the sky will be complemented by a host of on-ground attractions, dining options and entertainment. Highlights will include a heritage handicrafts village as well as a fantastic range of games and activities to suit all ages, including a flight simulator. The public area entertainment will start at 10am and run until 6pm during the three days. Entry to the public area can be accessed via Bahrain International Circuit.





BAC - CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SUCCESSES

The past twelve months have seen the Middle East's aviation industry grow at unprecedented rates propelled by rising consumer confidence, shifting trade patterns and a more robust Gulf economies when it comes to Aviation. This region is fast becoming a significant pivot for passenger and freight movement and according to latest industry forecasts the Middle East is set to lead global aviation growth in the coming years. Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) has been determined to capitalize on the projected trends and has rolled out a long-term strategy to consistently grow BIA's capacity, connectivity and network aiming to fuel Bahrain's economic progress as a tourist, business and

aviation hub, in line with the Economic Vision 2030.

The past twelve months have seen BAC rise to the challenge with a number of noteworthy achievements. Tremendous headway has been made on the much-anticipated Airport Modernization Program; on-the-ground activity is already underway with relocation of all existing utilities and facilities away from the footprint of the new BIA Passenger Terminal Building to make way for construction. A number of contracts have been awarded and key tenders for main works, baggage handling, aerobridges, screening, transport and ICT systems have been floated in the market through a competitive tendering process. Construction is anticipated to kick off by early 2016 with plans to deliver

a modern, brand new 206,000sqm state-of-the-art Passenger Terminal Building to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The new terminal has been designed to expand BIA's handling capacity and modernize the infrastructure, facilities and services, ultimately boosting BIA's regional competitiveness and furthering its status as a leading aviation hub. The new BIA terminal will reflect the airport's 'boutique' approach, with a focus on optimal operational efficiency, ease and flexibility of passenger movement and superior levels of service that BIA is renowned for.

Recently, BAC also attained the Airport Carbon Accreditation 'Level 1 Mapping' from Airports Council International (ACI), which marks a significant milestone in the company's



efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and operate BIA as an environmentally-friendly facility on par with its global counterparts. The company is now planning ahead for the second phase of the program to attain accreditation for 'Level 2 – Reduction' in the near future.

Last May, BAC had the privilege to host the inaugural Routes Middle East and Africa in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The event was a great success from an organizational and business perspective and provided an exceptional opportunity to strengthen BAC's partnership portfolio and reaffirm Bahrain's status as an aviation hub for the region.

BAC has consistently focused on improving the airport ground operation and keeping pace with the international standards, strategies and practices. Substantial cash injections have been made to enhance the passenger travel experience and improve passenger satisfaction levels such as the expansion of the Duty Free area and additional Food & Beverage offerings. As a result, BIA currently ranks 46th in the Skytrax top 100 airports listing, a significant jump from previous years and has already witnessed a 10pc year-on-year surge in passenger numbers up until October 2015. As per the company's forecasts more than 8.7 million passengers are expected to pass by BIA by the end of 2015 marking an 8pc surge, a trend BAC is confident will continue well through 2016 and beyond especially with the coming of the new BIA Passenger Terminal. BAC plans to persist with its investment to upgrade its infrastructure, facilities and services to sustain BIA's reputation for superior customer service, speed and operational efficiency, which are the airport's key differentiators.

BAC's route development efforts have also paid off with Cargolux, Pegasus and Nas Air being the most recent entrants into BIA, expanding the airport's airline portfolio and boosting its connectivity and global reach. The company remains focused on



stimulating traffic from its 5+ million catchment area (including KSA) and has embarked on a sustainable route development strategy to tap into new un-served markets in Asia and the Far East, increase frequencies to under-served markets including India and the Philippines, and continued collaboration with its partners to grow business whilst attracting new entrants into the market. In addition to that, legacy services like the 40+ years' service KLM have been providing from Bahrain International Airport have just received an amazing upgrade with adding the latest Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner to its fleet serving Bahrain amongst many other upgrades to the facilities like the new aerobridges and many other changes that put the focus to the passenger. Based on the industry projections in terms of passenger flows and air freight movement the future looks very positive for the region and Bahrain in specific where BIA is well-placed to benefit from the positive winds of change in the industry.



**Bahrain Airport Company
and BAC Facility Management congratulate**

His Majesty
King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
The King of The Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness
Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa
The Prime Minister

His Royal Highness
Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander
and First Deputy Premier

And the Government and people of the Kingdom of Bahrain
on the occasion of Bahrain's 44th National Day and the
16th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad's Accession to the throne.

BAC

بي آيه سي لإدارة المرافق
Facility Management



شركة مطار البحرين
bahrain airport company



أكاديمية الخليج للطيران
GULF AVIATION ACADEMY GAA

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By positioning itself to become a leading provider of high quality professional aviation training, Gulf Aviation Academy (GAA) has raised the bar of the training industry across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. We offer an extensive range of high quality structured training programmes and courses for all aviation and non-aviation personnel.

Being one of the first EASA approved and few internationally certified aviation training centres in the MENA region, we currently have the capacity of training thousands of pilots, engineers, cabin crew, air traffic controllers, security and other airline personnel annually at our state-of-the-art facilities and latest innovative technologies. Our diverse portfolio of flight and ground training is designed to enhance and advance any career in aviation.

In addition to holding regulatory approvals from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan and Aruba, the Academy has recently received the approval of the Indian Director General Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Our facility is fully operational round the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and our qualified training personnel are on hand at all times, offering full flexibility for all your aviation training needs.



URGENT NEED FOR A PROPER WICKET



Mr. Shah

Aidan Payne

Cricket Bahrain Association (CBA), the administrative body for the sport in the Kingdom is crying out for a proper 'turf wicket' sooner rather than later as they fear being left behind by the other GCC states.

CBA Finance Controller and Board Member Rizwan Shah says, "Other nations around the region such as UAE, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Afghanistan and even Iran are making tremendous progress as their governing bodies expand on development, while here in Bahrain we are stalled due to financial constraints."

Bahrain has been a member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) as an affiliated member since 2001 and as recently as 2012 was in the fifth division of the World Cricket League.

"We have seen the huge strides nations like Afghanistan, UAE and Oman have made over the past few years. For example, UAE host Pakistan's 'home matches' due to their internal security concerns in the country with test matches, ODIs and T20 games being played in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah. Afghanistan played with distinction in this year's World Cup in Afghanistan and Oman made it through to next year's T20 World Cup in India after its successful campaign in Ireland and Scotland."

In order for Bahrain cricket to progress, they need financial support from the government and a 'title deed' to the land and then go to the ICC with the proposal and who will give 50 per cent or more of the funding for development.

"If we can get half the funding then the rest could be made up through sponsorships. To create a cricket field, we would need a land area of around 4,000 square metres. The General Organisation for Youth and Sports (GOYS) is the key to the issue and they have already submitted the proposal to Parliament," says Mr Shah.

To get land for a cricket ground/stadium built, the consent of GOYS is required and they would need to speak with municipalities around the kingdom on the



In order for Bahrain cricket to progress, they need financial support from the government and a 'title deed' to the land and then go to the ICC with the proposal and which will give 50 pc or more of the funding for development.



BCC ground.

availability of spare land and the approval of the concerned authorities. "Look at the success of cricket and its influence on tourism related sectors in the UAE. Here in Bahrain, with a 50-50 population of nationals and expatriates we could make this a viable and prosperous project with the right support. Sharjah is a fantastic example with Abdul Rahman Bukhatir building the first stadium in the region in the 1970s and holds the record for hosting the most ODIs in history. We in Bahrain could attract thousands if the right facility was available," continued Mr Shah.

Bahrain does have the potential to be a proper cricket venue and has staged a number of high profile exhibition matches.

"Around 1995-96, a couple of matches were played for the Batelco Cup at

the Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town, these matches featuring a World XI against a Pakistan XI and then an India XI boasted big crowds and players such as Wasim Akram, Ramiz Raja, Mohammed Azarruddin, Inzaman Al Huq and Muttiah Muralitharan performed. This proved that Bahrain can and has the potential to jump up the cricket ladder," said Mr Shah. Bahrain also lags behind at all levels because when they enter world competition, they are disadvantaged due to playing on concrete wickets. "We need proper turf wickets urgently which is stalling progress not only for our development programme for the seniors, but also the youth of which we are trying to build development for Bahraini players particularly at school level, expat

players and women's involvement in the sport," he said.

CBA over the past couple of years or so has organised school cricket tournaments including an all-Bahrain at under-16 level at the Awali Oval. Coaching programmes for youth at under 16 and 19 have been inaugurated with CBA personnel passing (CC approved certificates.

The CBA currently operates two leagues, one for the senior league at Hunainiya Valley in Riffa and the Bahrain Cricket League in Busaiteen, Muharraq.



EXPLORING THE WORLD

Air India congratulates people of Bahrain on the day of 44th National day celebrations.

Air India operates non-stop flights to Delhi on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays. AI 940 will depart from Bahrain at 2300 and will arrive Delhi next day at 0520 in the morning. Flight from Delhi to Bahrain will depart at 1950 in the evening and reach Bahrain at 2155. The flight is being operated by new A319 aircraft with Business & Economy class configuration.

We will be providing connection to all Indian/foreign destinations.

The destinations are Amritsar, Patna, Lucknow, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Srinagar, Bangalore, Chennai, Bangkok, Singapore and Frankfurt to name a few. Air India offers very convenient connections and competitive fares through their hub in Delhi which is



popularly known as T-3. Passengers arrive and take their onward flights from the same terminal and it requires less connecting time.

We are also offering free baggage allowance of 35 KG for Bahrain to Delhi and all onward passengers to India.

Air India Express, a low-cost airline subsidiary of Air India operates daily direct flights to Kozhikode, Kochi departing Bahrain at 1425. Air India Express also operates direct flights to Mangalore on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays departing Bahrain at 1015.

Congratulations
On the occasion of

44th
Bahrain's
National Day

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DIRECT TO KOZHIKODE, KOCHI, MANGALORE
FROM BAHRAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

SECTOR	FLIGHT	DAYS	DEP	ARR
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BAH/COK	IX 474	DAILY	1425	0105+
BAH/IXE	IX 890	MON/WED/FRI	1015	1910
BAH/DEL	AI 940	MON/TUE/THU/SAT	2300	0520+



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BAZAAR IS SOLD-OUT WITH ALL 100 STALLS BOOKED

All set for the Third BIC National Day Festival

BIC, Sakhir – Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), the home of motorsport in the Middle East, is preparing for the third annual National Day Festival, which marks Bahrain's National Day. The event will take place at the Circuit from December 14 to 17, over four consecutive days from 4pm to 10pm at the circuit, with an entrance fee of just five hundred fils. This year's festival will include a variety of programmes, most notable of which is a shopping bazaar made up of a wide range of products. All 100 stalls of the bazaar have already been reserved. In addition, there are entertainment programmes, activities and games for children and a carnival for adults. There will also be 22 cafes and restaurants at the festival this year, as well as a number of entertaining surprises that are set to be announced soon. Through the festival, Bahraini audiences will have a date with a number of special events that will suit the whole family while celebrating the Kingdom of Bahrain's glorious national day, so don't miss out on the opportunity to celebrate this huge event down at the BIC. It is worth mentioning that the National Day Festival is being organised for the third year in a row, and has received a warm and huge response from previous visitors. Last year's festival was a huge success, with events including fireworks and concerts, which the whole family enjoyed. Visitor numbers last year reached 100,000 over the five-day festival period. You can follow the latest information and details regarding the festival on Instagram @BIC_nationalday.





THE NEW 2016 FORD EXPLORER ARRIVES



New 2016 Ford Explorer brings more smart technology
 → Explorer Sport customers looking for a more dynamic driving experience will benefit from unique steering gear, front and rear springs, struts and rear dampers

→ More than 7 million Explorers have been sold worldwide

The vehicle that gave us room to roam reminds us that there is always room for more.

"Explorer helped define how the world thinks about SUVs," said Raj Nair, Ford group vice president and chief technical officer, Global Product Development.

"Explorer is the centerpiece of Ford's global utility vehicle lineup because it delivers an ideal combination of form and function. And with well over 7 million already sold, nearly everyone has an Explorer story." Introduced in 1990 as a 1991 model, Explorer featured generous interior space customers were looking for, and was engineered specifically for people seeking adventure for their families and a way to express their individuality. More innovation equals greater performance, more fun.

Even more smart technology – that's what customers will get with the new Ford Explorer. It offers more technologies than previous models, features that enhance the driving experience. New technologies available for 2016 include:

→ **Front and rear cameras with washers:** Both have wide-angle lenses and come equipped with a washer – a class-exclusive, segment-first feature

→ **Enhanced active park assist with perpendicular park assist, park-out assist and semi-automatic parallel parking:** The system uses ultrasonic sensors and electric power-assisted steering to help drivers with parallel parking and perpendicular parking maneuvers. Enhanced active park assist includes park-out assist to help a driver pull out of parallel parking spots. The system controls the steering wheel, while the driver operates the accelerator and brake pedals, and shifts the vehicle into gear

→ **Smart-charging USB ports:** Located in the front and rear of the vehicle are USB ports able to charge smart

devices up to two times faster than conventional parts.

➔ **Hands-free liftgate:** A customer need only kick his or her leg below the center of the rear bumper to open or close the liftgate

➔ **Air curtains:** Standard air curtains create a high-pressure region of air that impacts the outer surface of the wheels and tyres. The result is airflow held close to the vehicle body, minimizing drag. The following features, while not new for Explorer, are also available on the 2016 model:

➔ **Adaptive cruise control and collision warning with brake support:** Uses radar to detect moving vehicles directly ahead and changes the cruising speed if necessary

➔ **Lane-keeping system:** Automatically detects left- and right-hand road lane markings using the front camera system. A vibration in the steering wheel alerts the driver if the vehicle begins to drift out of the intended lane. The system can also provide steering torque to help guide the vehicle back into the lane if needed

➔ **Blind Spot Information System:** BLIS® uses radar to trigger a warning when another motorist is in the driver's blind spot

➔ **Cross-traffic alert:** Uses radar to help alert drivers to oncoming traffic when backing out of a parking space

➔ **Auto high-beams:** Using windshield-mounted cameras, the feature automatically switches between high-beam and low-beam settings when oncoming traffic is detected

➔ **Inflatable rear safety belts:** Introduced on 2011 Explorer as an industry-first feature, the belts deploy an airbag over the torso and shoulder of an outboard passenger to help distribute crash forces over up to five times more area than a traditional safety belt. Spreading forces over a larger area helps reduce pressure on a passenger's chest, and helps control head and neck motion

"The new Explorer isn't giving up its reputation as a leader in highway fuel efficiency – which is especially key for customers who want a vehicle that is also a capable trail warrior," said Groeneveld.

The standard 3.5-liter V6 engine for base, XLT and Limited models – with 294 PS at 6,500 rpm and 346 Nm of torque at 4,000 rpm – is paired with

a six-speed SelectShift® Automatic transmission. Explorer Sport 6 5,500 rpm and 470 Nm of torque at 3,500 rpm – also mated with the six-speed SelectShift.

For the exterior, signature lighting surrounds the LED headlamps, giving the vehicle a continuous glow. Other features include a standard dual-panel moonroof, premium silver-painted front and rear skid plate elements, and an all-new 18 and 20-inch wheel line up. The integrated exhaust is designed to reduce the appearance of soot collecting at the rear of the vehicle. Inside the chrome bezel of the exhaust, engineers designed a shield that catches the soot so it doesn't collect around the outlets.

Intelligent four-wheel drive: Ready for any adventure

Explorer's intelligent four-wheel drive with Terrain Management System™ reassesses conditions about 20 times faster than the blink of an eye – providing precise handling and traction. Intelligent four-wheel drive continuously monitors wheel speed, throttle position and steering wheel angle to determine vehicle conditions and driver intent. The system then determines the optimal amount of front and rear torque for the given conditions to prevent slip from even occurring, which helps keep the vehicle sure-footed on virtually any terrain. In sand, grass or gravel mode, the antilock braking system changes its pulse rate, which allows material to build up in front of the wheels, acting as a doorstop of sorts to help slow momentum. To help maintain efficiency, in most steady-state cruising conditions the new Explorer equipped with intelligent four-wheel drive seamlessly and quickly transfers torque between the front and rear wheels.

A newly refined, intelligent four-wheel-drive gauge display shows power being distributed to front and rear wheels under all conditions – from heavy four-wheel-drive system usage to when the system is not transmitting power at all.

Comfortable and capable

The new Explorer benefits from an improved suspension for better

handling and a quiet cabin, enabling a comfortable ride even when the pavement turns to dirt. Ford completely retuned the Explorer chassis to clearly differentiate the driving experiences offered by the XLT and Sport models.

The suspension uses MacPherson construction with an isolated subframe and 32-millimeter stabilizer bar at the front, while an independent multilink rear setup uses a 22-millimeter stabilizer bar.

Explorer Sport customers looking for a more dynamic driving experience will benefit from unique steering gear, front and rear springs, struts and rear dampers.

Interior changes help enhance quietness in the cabin. There are new door seals, and an enhanced sound package includes engine subframe mounts specially tuned to reduce vibration. Acoustic glass is used on the windshield and front doors on XLT and higher trim levels.

New look

Rugged – that's the word that inspired the designers creating the look of the new Ford Explorer.

Exterior styling updates – such as positioning the grille and LED headlamps even higher, adding a new closed-off lower roof rack with channels that cascade rainwater off the vehicle and a new rear spoiler – also improve aerodynamics.

The 2016 Explorer features more robust headlamps, with available LED signature lighting, standard LED low-beams and available LED fog lamps. Visible heat-sink structures for cooling the LED headlamps are a meaningful detail. These radiator-like grilles are typically hidden behind the light cluster, but on Explorer they are part of a complex headlamp design that puts innovation on display.

Interior design changes reflect desires customers expressed through Ford consumer research, which shows one in five Explorer Sport customers previously owned a luxury vehicle. Changes include a higher-mounted, wrapped and stitched door armrest, real buttons to replace touch-sense buttons on the infotainment system and more refined detailing throughout.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

The Kingdom witnessed countless events during the past 12 months. Some were sad, others happy, exciting and honourable. Here we give you a quick glimpse through the main local events of 2015.



JANUARY 23,

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa joined leaders of the world at the funeral of the late Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdulla bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, who passed away on January 22.



FEBRUARY 5,

Former Indian President the late Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam visited Bahrain where he met with Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. During his visit Dr. Kalam also met ministers, community leaders, school students and participated in a luncheon reception on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of *DT News*.



FEBRUARY 27,

His Majesty the King's Representative for Charity Works and Youth Affairs, Supreme Council for Youth and Sports Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa participated in the Dubai Triple Crown Triathlon Championship, along with Qatari special needs child Ghanem Al Muftah, making his dream to participate in such a competition come true.



MAY 05,

A team of volunteers from the Royal Charity Organisation (RCO), Bahrain have begun their relief operations in Nepal, delivering over 30 tonnes of aid to the relief organizations in Katmandu.



AUGUST 7,

Ten-year-old Bahraini swimmer Al Zain Tariq on this date was named as the youngest swimmer to compete in World Swimming Championship that was held in Russia. She was received by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in November.



MARCH 26,

On this date and following the orders of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander, 12 fighter jets from the Royal Bahraini Air Force (RBAF) participated in the "Operation Decisive Storm", as part of the Joint Peninsula Shield Forces. The Royal Orders were made in response to a call from the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (KSA) to meet the request of the legitimate authority in Yemen.



APRIL 19,

Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa awarded Mercedes F1 Team driver Lewis Hamilton as the champion of the 2015 Formula One Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix, which was dubbed as the most successful season held at Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhir.



JUNE 8,

Bahrain National Athletic Team Runner Kemi Adekoya broke a new record in the 400m Women hurdles (54:31) race, held within the 21st Asian Athletics Championships in Wuhan, China, placing herself on top of the world women runners ranking for 400m (International Ranking).



JULY 30,

Bahrain Summer Festival, a month-long programme, was inaugurated by Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities President Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa.



SEPTEMBER 5,

Five Bahraini soldiers were martyred in Yemen on this date. Their bodies were flown to Bahrain on the next day and were buried on September 6. Funerals attended by countless number of citizens were held in Muarraq and Riffa where the martyrs were buried. BDF commanders, including HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa and HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa were in the front lines of the processions.



OCTOBER 3,

Thousands of Anime and Gaming fans gathered at the annual IGN Anime and Gaming convention.



NOVEMBER 20, 21,

The trio of Mitch Evans, Luca Ghiotto and Jeffrey Schmidt each captured a race victory in their respective championships, held in support of the 2015 FIA WEC Bacoco 6 Hours of Bahrain at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC). Mitch Evans won the GP2 series, Luca Ghiotto won the GP3 and Jeffrey Schmidt won the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East. The championship was accompanied by family entertainment activities that attracted thousands.

WHAT'S MISSING IN BAHRAIN?

Air ambulance

Bahrain is a smallest Arab nation and the Kingdom is one of the top 10 densely populated nations in the world. Therefore, managing traffic has been a challenge for the traffic authorities in the Kingdom. That's why the ambulance drivers too face difficulties while transporting patients, especially when they are in need of emergency treatment. How about introducing air ambulance in Bahrain?

Cycling corridors

Bahrain has already given a contribution to green energy, with the form of introducing solar energy. Creation of more and more cycling corridors could contribute to reducing carbon emission. It might also help the authorities to reduce traffic congestions, while also providing health benefits. Of course, Bahrain's summer season is challenging. But we have a pleasant winter season too.

Indian universities

According to sources, out of 1.2 million population of Bahrain, 0.6 million are expats. Among expats, 0.35 million are Indians. There are enough schools with Indian syllabus in the Kingdom. Afterwards, Indian students head towards their homeland to continue their higher education. Opening doors to Indian universities could allow students to continue their studies in Bahrain itself, that too staying with their parents. Moreover, it could contribute to converting Bahrain into an educational hub, bringing more revenue to the Kingdom.

Metro/tram

Bahrain is growing and its traffic problems too.

Especially during peak hours, reaching your destination is a daunting task. The drivers of red buses are also facing a huge challenge during peak hours to meet the schedule. Introduction of metro or tram service in the Kingdom could bring a big relief to the people of Bahrain. Dubai has already launched metro service successfully. Why not Bahrain?

Cricket stadium

No doubt, Bahrain is fond of football. But there is a huge number of expat community, which loves cricket. United Arab Emirates is regularly hosting various international cricket matches in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Dubai. Even Qatar has a full-fledged cricket stadium. It's time for Bahrain to think in this direction. A full-fledged cricket ground not only boosts cricket, but also brings in a lot of visitors when an international match is held.

Planetarium

Bahrain is known for advanced education and tech savvy people. But the stargazers are still looking for a planetarium, which could help people to learn more about astronomy. Installing a planetarium is not at all a challenge for Bahrain as it does not cost much.

Media city

A media city brings media companies and media professionals under one roof. It could also provide other services like networking opportunities, venue management services, industry building programmes and government services etc. Bahrain, known for its media freedom, can also have a media city, creating a platform for media houses to grow.



ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

Byju Raveendran

Technology has changed every walk of our life in last century from the way we communicate mostly using phones, the way we travel and even the way we do trade and finance via internet. The role of technology in education was slow to adapt but in recent years there has been major adoption

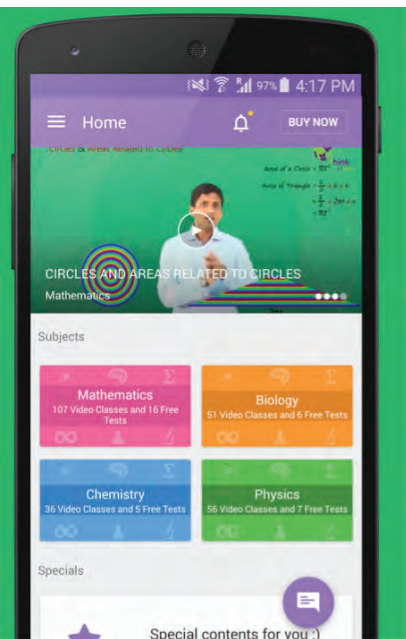


Figure 1 Phone based Learning solution

equally by all the stake holders of the ecosystem namely Students, Teachers, Parents, Educational Institutes and corporates training programmes. There are many forms of digital learning solutions available like Learning Management System (LMS), Virtual Classroom and Tablet/Phone based educational solutions each one having its own suitability and advantages based on the needs. These solutions have helped institutes

to standardize the teaching methodologies and thus ensuring the quality of education is maintained constantly and is not entirely dependent on the teachers knowledge of the subject, bring in Audio/Visual and animation content thus increasing the engagement and retention of the learning for students, enhance the performance of students and teachers through tracking and reporting tools, provide realtime upgrade to content and most importantly enable learning at one's own pace and time.

Technology is an enabler and content is the king in education space. Forward thinking educational institutes are investing lot of resources and effort in developing creative audio visual content with immersive animations and engaging simulation thus making learning process more enjoyable. It's becoming increasingly popular for students to either carry a laptop or a tablet instead of pile of books. The content is available for students all the time and thus making it easier for students to learn whenever, wherever and any number of times they want.

The technology is helping students by making the courses personalized. With good categorization and tagging of the content learning systems are able to understand the learning pattern of the student and thus provide 1-on-1 recommendation. With in-depth analysis and reports students are able to identify their weak areas faster. With flipped classroom models students are studying at home and using their interaction time with teachers to understand advanced concepts. Technology like Youtube, Kahn Academy, Coursera and online MOOC has brought the best of global teachers within reach of every student across the globe and thus making quality teaching affordable and accessible.

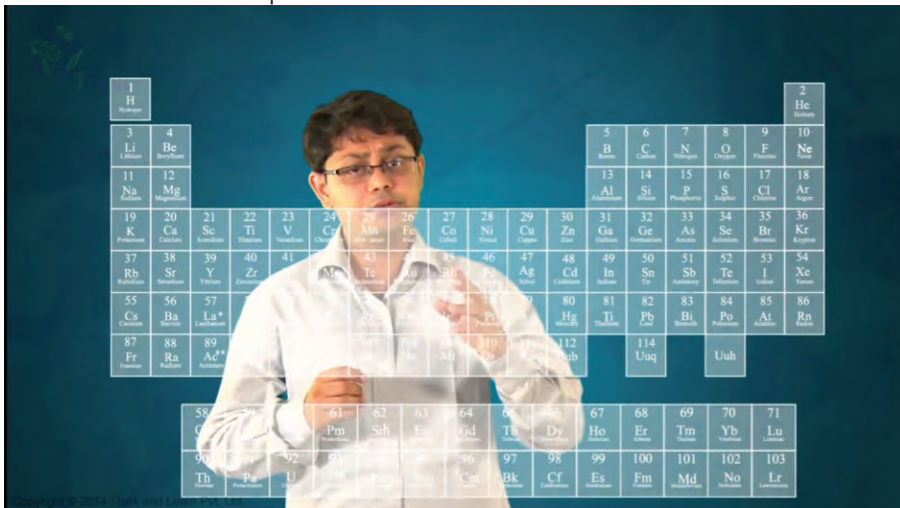


Figure 3 Detailed Analytics about Course coverage and Progress



Figure 2 Engaging Video Text Bools making learning Fun

Role of teacher is changing with the adoption of technology in educational institutes. Teachers are able to concentrate more on what they do best i.e teaching and allow technology do most of the routine work like attendance tracking, assessing student assessments and generate reports. Even Parents are always in touch with their child progress with constant feedback about student performance with detailed analysis of their child progress, test scores and other scholastic and non-scholastic activities. This article is written by Mr. Byju Raveendran, Founder of "Think and Learn Private Limited" fastest growing ed-tech company in India. Byju known for his short-cut techniques is a 100% CAT topper, an exam

considered as one of the toughest. He found there is a fundamental need to change how students Think and Learn and started this venture in 2011. With the help of technology and engaging content his learning methodologies have reached millions of students in India and abroad. His recent initiative to make education available on mobile devices named "Byju's The Learning app" is a great success with more than 2.5 million downloads in a span of 3 months and is changing the way students from 6th to 12th grade and for some of the toughest competitive exams are learning.

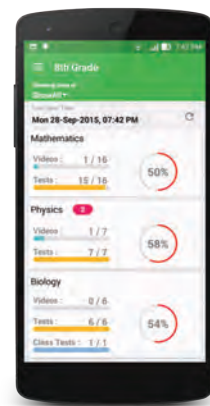


Figure 4 Parents accessing child's learning progress on their Smart Phones

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**His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa,
The Prime Minister**

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