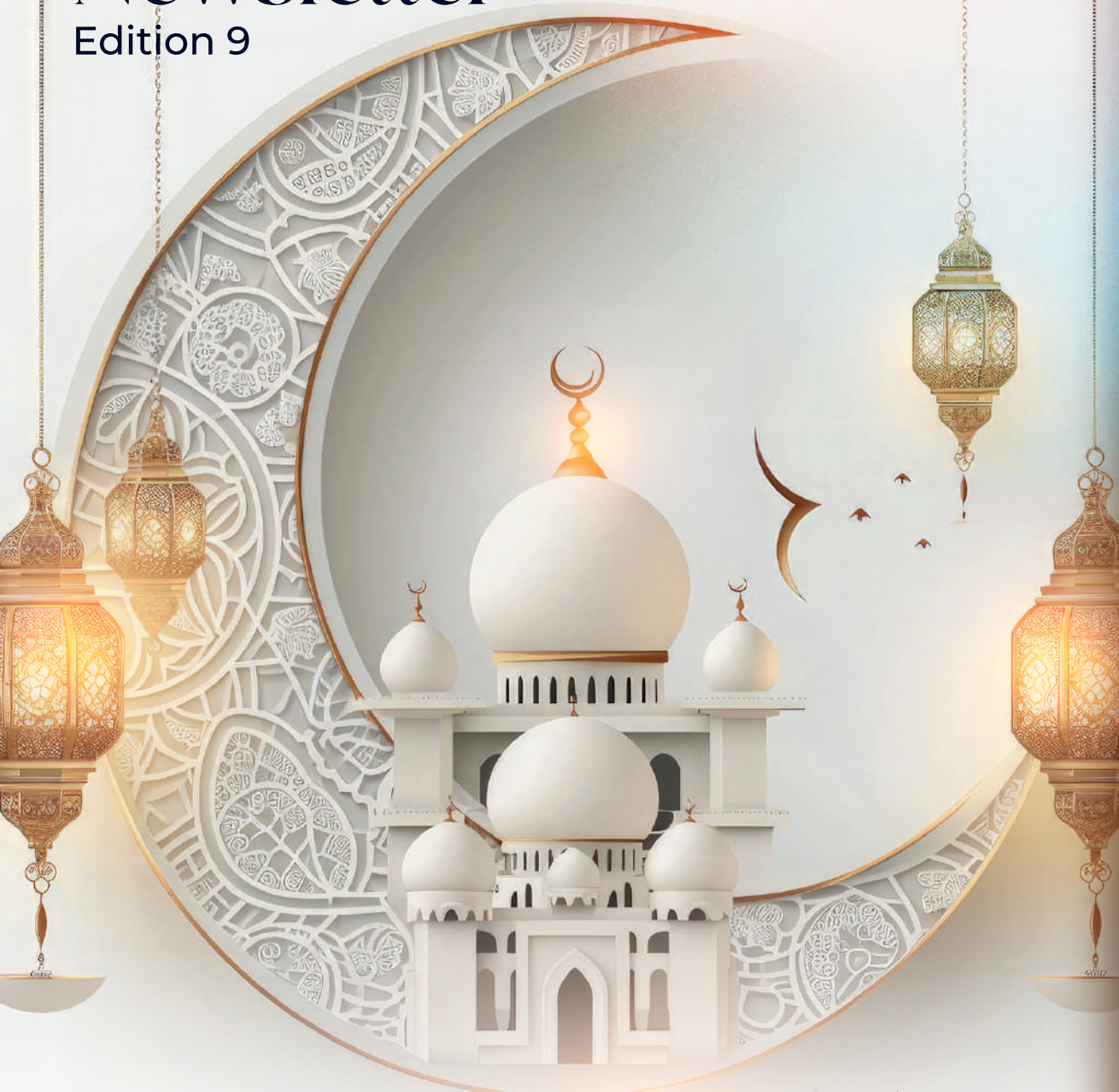


APRIL 2024

Newsletter

Edition 9



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April 2024

Foreword for Al Banyan Newsletter

Mrs. Amna bint Ahmed Al-Rumaihi
Minister of Housing and Urban Planning,
and Eng. - Kingdom of Bahrain

Dear esteemed members of Thattai Hindu
Merchants Community,

This year the auspicious occasion of the holy month of Ramadan and the upcoming celebration of Eid Al Fitr is also joined by the special Hindu Holi Festival, and for both I would like to extend my sincere heartfelt greetings to all members of the valued THMC community.

The concurrence of these two occasions and their cultural and religious significance to both the Muslim and Hindu communities in Bahrain remind us in our shared humanity we are closer to one another. To all of us they signify a time of renewal, blessings, abundance, and prosperity.

With a centuries long history spanning hundreds of years through numerous generations and across various countries between Bahrain and India, the Thattai community's engagement continue to prove its value through its presence as a most distinguished community within



Bahrain's civil society and economy. The long-standing relations between members of the community of merchants and traders continue to exemplify and embody the highest values of contribution, tolerance, coexistence, and humanity.

This is but one example and a direct reflection of the visions of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa as outlined in the Declaration of the Kingdom of Bahrain which proudly builds on centuries of peaceful coexistence and acceptance of multiple faiths within our beloved Bahrain. This has allowed for the growth of many communities of various faiths to feel valued and accepted and where religion is practiced freely and with all the rights reserved and protected.

Contd...



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Foreword for Al Banyan Newsletter

At the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning's we are proud of our evolving housing and planning portfolio which extends over sixty years, since the building of the first model town in the region, Isa Town, fully equipped with all the modern amenities of modern daily life.

The private sector has always been and continue to be a valued partner in our operations and achievements. Today more than ever partnerships with the private sector are becoming an integral part of our product design and operations and generally in how we do business. Limited land resources necessitate innovative and timely housing and land use solutions as they become an integral element towards ensuring sustainability. All of this is pivotal in better addressing the needs of not only a growing Bahraini society who benefit from our housing programs but the general local society.

One of the highlight achievements of the past year is the promulgation of Decree No. (93) of 2023 the Zoning Regulations for Construction in Various Areas in the Kingdom of Bahrain, which aimed towards a model and holistic planning for lands in line of the National Strategic Plan 2030

towards the support of sustainable urban growth. The latest regulations aim to include measures to better implement the Kingdom's commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and the enactment of the New Urban Agenda in a way which regulates urban growth and minimizes its adverse effects of all segments of society while ensuring inclusive and resilient communities. On that note, we are very proud of our work with the THMC through both of its presidents, past and present,

Mr. Bob Thaker & Mr. Mukesh Kavalani, to facilitate the impressive revitalization project of THMC Complex and the Krishna Temple. This important hallmark in the heart of Manama is one which is dear to many members of the Hindu community in Bahrain and is rich in its history which spans over two hundred years.

Under the directions of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa and the auspices of His Highness the Prime Minister, Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning continues to build partnerships for stronger communities and a strengthened and inclusive urban fabric.

Mrs. Amna bint Ahmed Al-Rumaihi
Minister of Housing and Urban Planning, and Eng.



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Message from The President

On behalf of board of the Thattai Hindu Merchant Community in the Kingdom of Bahrain, we extend heartfelt Eid greetings to all our esteemed members and the vibrant community of Bahrain. On this auspicious occasion of Eid, we express our deepest gratitude to His Majesty King Shaikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Royal Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaikh Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the esteemed government officials, and the people of Bahrain for their unwavering support and encouragement. This support is essential in fostering a conducive environment for businesses and communities to thrive. We are immensely proud to witness the positive economic developments between Bahrain and India, illustrating the strong bilateral ties and shared aspirations for progress and prosperity.



In this quarterly newsletter, we highlight the significant strides made by our community, including constructive engagements with various Ambassadors and Government officials of Bahrain by our board members. These interactions underscore our commitment to strengthening partnerships and exploring avenues for mutual growth and collaboration.

As we celebrate Eid and reflect on our achievements, let us reaffirm our dedication to upholding the values of unity, diversity, and inclusivity that define both Bahrain and our community. Wishing everyone a joyous Eid filled with blessings, peace, and prosperity.

Warm regards,
Mukesh T Kavalani

President
Thattai Hindu Merchant Community Kingdom of Bahrain



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THMC EVENTS

THMC Board Members Met The Chargée D' Affairs Of The Embassy Of Brunei Darussalam

April 2024

THMC President Mr. Mukesh T Kavalani, Vice President Mr. Viren V Bhatia, Past President Mr. B.C. Thaker, Treasurer Mr. Kumar Gandhi and the Board member Mr. Jayant Lalchand met the Chargée d' Affairs of the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam Her Excellency Mrs. Nazirah Zaini on the 28th April 2024 and discussed various opportunities to further enhance business relations between THMC members and Brunei companies.

President Mr. Mukesh Kavalani shared the history of the Bhatia community in Bahrain and details about the upcoming THMC redevelopment project.



THMC EVENTS



THMC Board Members Met The Honorable Minister For Housing And Urban Planning, Kingdom Of Bahrain

January 2024

Honorable Minister for Housing and Urban Planning, Her Excellency Mrs. Amna bint Ahmed Al Rumahi, met with Mr. Mukesh T Kavalani, President of the Thattai Hindu Merchants Community, along with Mr. Yogesh N Bhatia and Mr. Bob Thaker on 15th February 2024.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized the importance of the Association's objectives in accordance with applicable laws. She highlighted the importance of the THMC redevelopment project and offered all help and assistance towards the timely completion of the project. She also stressed the significance of community partnership with institutions to promote development in the respective areas.

Her Excellency commended the Association's social efforts and underscored the importance of collaborative efforts with all relevant sectors to advance development areas. This cooperation and coordination aim to contribute to the achievement of the Association's established goals. President Kavalani thanked the Minister for expediting all the approvals for the project and appreciated the support of the leadership and her ministry.



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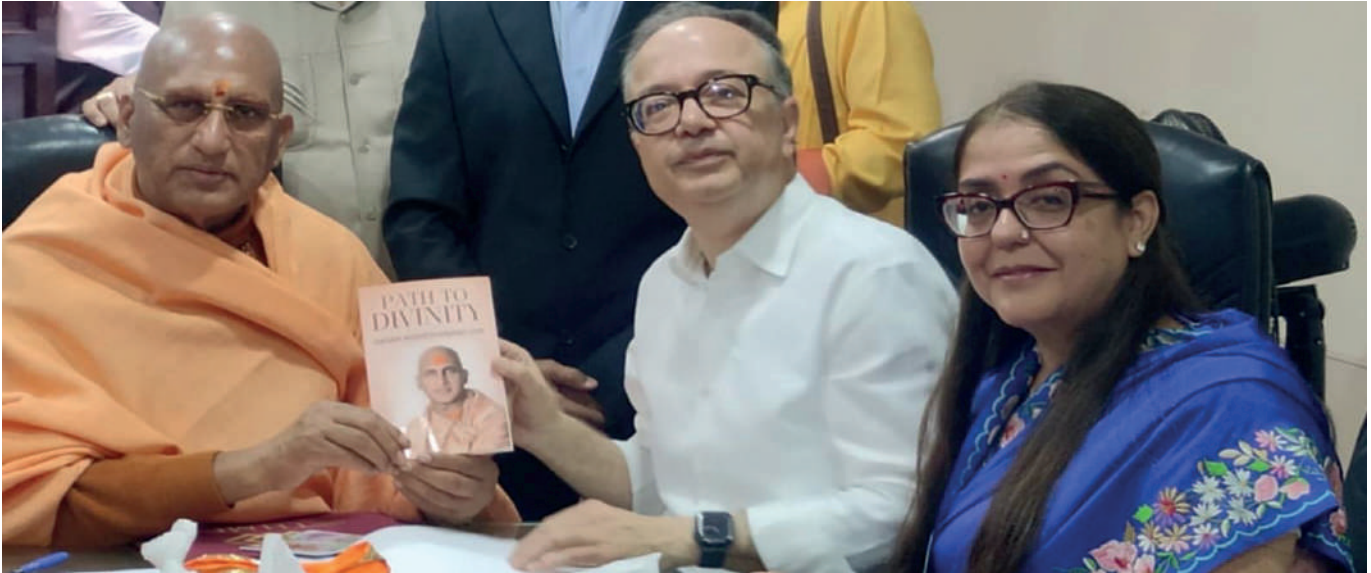
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THMC EVENTS

February 2024

Visit Of Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, To The Thmc Complex



Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj, HariHar, Uttarakhand, Hindu spiritual guru, saint, writer and philosopher, visited the THMC Complex on Friday, February 23, 2024.

He is the current Acharya Mahamandaleshwar of Juna Akhara. THMC President Mr. Mukesh T Kavalani shared the history of the Bhatia community in Bahrain and details about the upcoming THMC redevelopment project.





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NEWS

HRH The CP, PM, And Chairman Of The Bahrain Economic Development Board Chairs The Bahrain EDB Board Meeting



HRH the CP, PM, and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board chairs the Bahrain EDB Board Meeting

- Since the launch of the National Action Charter, the Kingdom of Bahrain has demonstrated a distinguished record of achievements, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.
- The will and determination of Team Bahrain, continues to support the Kingdom's comprehensive development.
- Team Bahrain alongside the Kingdom's private sector, continues to support the national economy to ensure the Kingdom the Kingdom remains a top destination for investment across numerous sectors.
- The promising investment opportunities facilitated by Team Bahrain, have allowed for the advancement of development and diversification efforts, attracting investments that have exceeded the Kingdom's set goals.



HRH the CP, PM, and Chairman of the Bahrain Economic Development Board

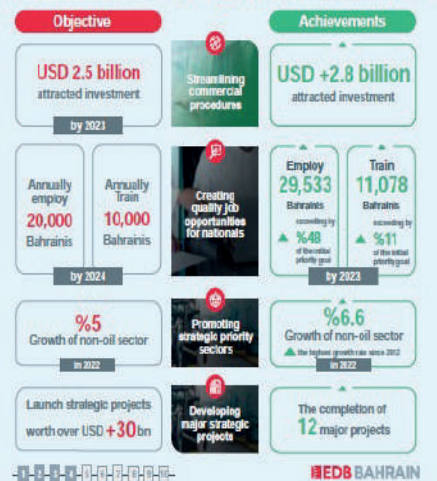
- Expressed his pride in the Kingdom's achievements and developments across all sectors in conjunction with the Economic Recovery Plan and Bahrain Economic Vision 2030.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain has served and continues to serve and empower its citizens by creating promising opportunities across various fields.
- The Kingdom's key economic indicators and other positive markers forecast a reassuring future for the Kingdom of Bahrain dictated by success and promising opportunities for its citizens.
- The next stage requires resolve and determination from everyone to build on the previous successes and reach greater and more comprehensive achievements.



During a meeting of the Economic Development Board

- The total value of investments since the launch of the Economic Recovery Plan in 2021, has reached more than USD 2.8 billion, exceeding the priority goal.
- The non-oil sector also recorded a growth of 6.6% at constant prices during the year 2022, the highest growth rate since 2012, exceeding the initial target growth rate.
- The Kingdom's economy recorded a cumulative growth of 8% between 2002 to 2022, placing the Kingdom of Bahrain among the fastest-growing economies in the region.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain has also succeeded in increasing economic diversification as the contribution of the non-oil sector to the gross domestic product rose to 83% from 58% in 2002.
- As for the priority of financial sustainability and economic stability, work is underway to achieve the goals of fiscal balance.

HE the Minister of Finance and National Economy outlined the achievements of the Kingdom's Economic Recovery Plan





Lighting the path for Bahraini Businesses

Now that's empowerment in action! In the last five years, Tamkeen has been a beacon of support for Bahraini companies.

Latest report says, a whopping 97% of the Labour Fund's support went towards empowering Bahraini-owned businesses!

Only a fortunate 3% of non-Bahraini businesses managed to secure a slice of the pie.

But wait, there's more! During this time, Tamkeen poured a jaw-dropping 9.4 million dinars into the mix, directly benefiting 1,135 Bahraini workers and 226 companies through wage subsidies.

And that's not all!

During this period, Tamkeen has fuelled the dreams of 7,000 Bahrainis with wage and training support, with their companies paying them a dazzling 30% above the average!

And guess what? Tamkeen isn't just about throwing money around. Every request undergoes rigorous scrutiny, ensuring accountability and effectiveness. These impressive stats were revealed in response to a parliamentary inquiry led by Representative Jaleela Al Sayed.

Dismissals under scanner!

When it comes to dismissals, Tamkeen isn't messing around!

They've rolled out a new control mechanism to ensure fairness, in dealing with dismissals. The plan, Tamkeen officials say, improved communication channels and established a swift notification mechanism.

The notification mechanism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, enables appropriate actions



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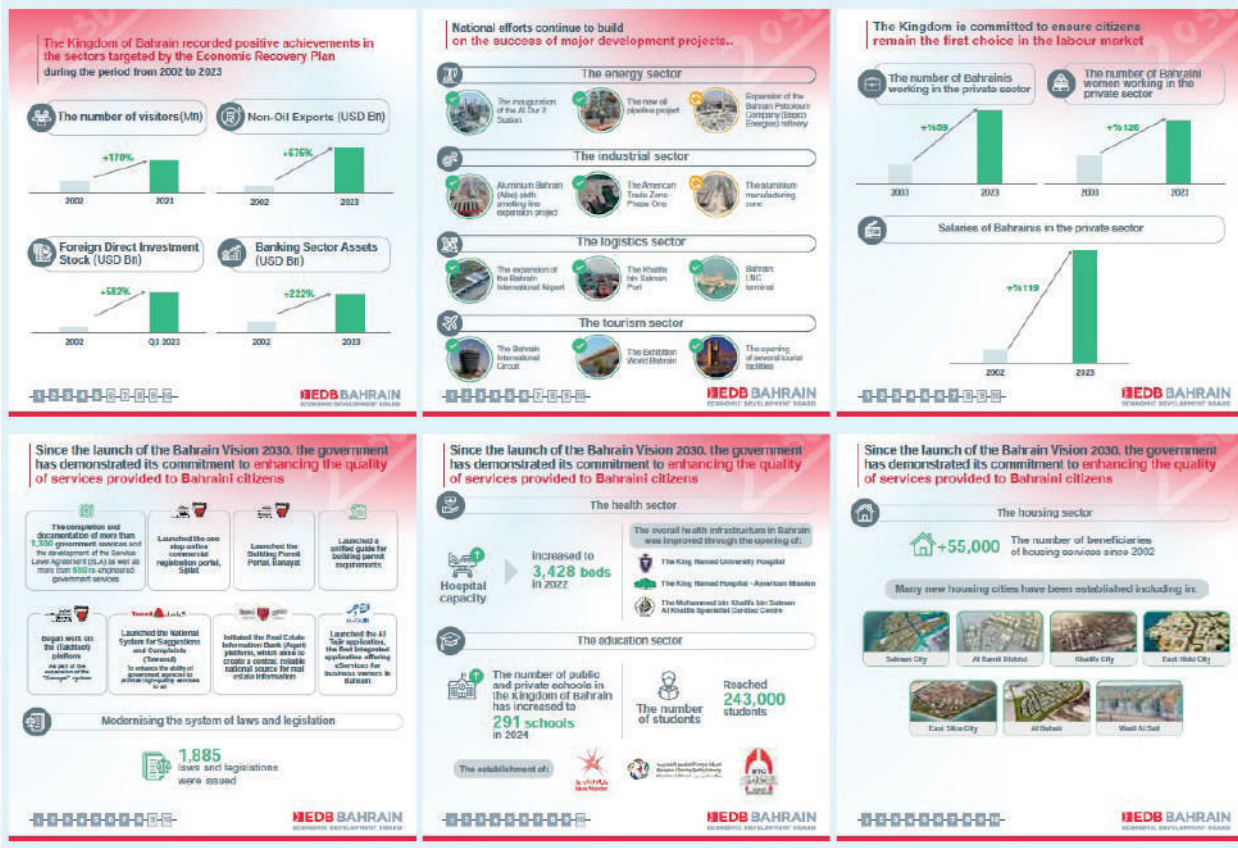
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swiftly, ensuring that Bahraini workers are safeguarded every step of the way.

Hotline to report dismissals

Tamkeen says it stands ready to investigate any suspicions and take decisive action, including recovering support amounts or disqualifying violators from future benefits. Affected individuals are encouraged to contact Tamkeen through a dedicated hotline meant for handling grievances related to dismissals or other arbitrary situations.

“A media campaign will be initiated to encourage affected individuals to report dismissal cases through Tamkeen’s dedicated hotline, the statement reads.

Tamkeen also said it will evaluate the existence of a family relationship between the employee and the employer’s establishment before any approvals. “Approval or denial of the application will be based on this information,” the statement stressed.



HRH Prince Salman Inaugurates Kingdom's First Shopping Resort.



HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister opens the Marassi Galleria

Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, yesterday inaugurated the Marassi Galleria at Marassi Al Bahrain. Marassi Galleria, a key anchor within the Marassi Al Bahrain masterplan, is one of the major development projects that are a key component of the Kingdom's Economic Recovery Plan.

HRH Prince Salman toured the mall, set against the stunning backdrop of Bahrain's coastline, viewing its modern and recreational facilities and lauding the efforts of all parties who have jointly contributed to the project. Marassi Galleria is the first shopping resort in the Kingdom, located within the Marassi Al Bahrain project, on an area of 114,000 square metres.

HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister highlighted the wide-ranging achievements witnessed by the Kingdom

since the launch of the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, adding that the all-encompassing Vision has provided inspiration to continue building on these achievements in line with the Kingdom's comprehensive development goals, led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He stressed that the Economic Recovery Plan's major development projects span across different sectors, providing quality opportunities for Bahraini citizens, increasing the country's competitiveness and supporting economic diversification efforts.

His Royal Highness underscored the pivotal role played by the Kingdom's private sector as a major driver of growth for the economy. He noted the importance of continuing to attract investments that will benefit Bahrain and its citizens.



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HH Shaikh Khalid Says Sports Day Promotes Sports As Lifestyle In Bahrain

Manama, Feb. 21 (BNA):

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Supreme Council for Youth and Sport First Deputy Chairman, General Sports Authority (GSA) Chairman, and Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) President, has emphasised the importance of the Bahrain Sports Day 2024, stating that the leadership of



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa has promoted initiatives to make sports a daily lifestyle for all social groups and segments in Bahrain.

HH Shaikh Khalid extended thanks and gratitude to HM the King for his interest in the sports sector, and to His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, for allocating a half working day for sporting activities on Bahrain Sports Day 2024, which starts on Thursday in Bahrain Bay.

HH Shaikh Khalid also expressed thanks to His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, HM the King's Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs, for his unwavering support for sports and athletes. Bahrain has significantly incorporated sports into its daily life through specific initiatives, utilising all available capabilities to promote positive behaviours and strengthen the concept of sports culture in Bahraini society, HH Shaikh Khalid said. The annual Bahrain Sports Day has significantly revitalised sports in the kingdom, attracting widespread participation from all sectors of society and residents to promote a healthy lifestyle through sports practice and the development of new initiatives to make it part of the Bahrainis' daily lifestyle, HH Shaikh added.

HH Shaikh Khalid announced that of GSA's preparations for the Bahrain Sports Day 2024 have been completed, noting that nation-wide event will feature various events and competitions at Bahrain Bay and across all governorates. The event will involve government ministries, private entities, sports federations, clubs, and community members. His Highness expressed hope that everyone would benefit from this Day and the unique opportunity it provides to practise the sport they deem appropriate for their abilities.



Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024 to mark Kingdom's landmark 20th anniversary in topflight

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) officially launched yesterday the exciting leadup to the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2024—an historic occasion set to celebrate the Kingdom of Bahrain's landmark 20th anniversary in F1. Fantastic plans for the highly anticipated motorsport and entertainment spectacle, scheduled to take place 29 February to 2 March, include a campaign commemorating “20 Years of a Modern Classic”, three days of non-stop racing, and loads of family fun and entertainment. Details of the grand prix weekend were announced last night at the official public launch event, organised by BIC at The Avenues Bahrain.

Speaking at the launch were Minister of Tourism Fatima bint Jaffer Al Sairafi, BIC Chief Executive Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, and Gulf Air Chief Executive Captain Waleed Al Alawi. F1 CEO Stefano Domenicali and McLaren F1 Team superstar Lando Norris also delivered video messages at the event, which was hosted by legendary F1 commentator David Croft along with local media personality Imran Al Aradi. ‘Extraordinary’. Tourism Minister praised F1's incredible impact on Bahrain's tourism sector.

“Since 2004, our presence on the global sports tourism map has been solidified, backing initiatives to make Bahrain a preferred destination for sports tourism in the Middle East and beyond,” she said. “The hosting of the Formula 1 event aligns with the objectives of Bahrain's

Bahrain Women's Hockey Scores Big For Regional Empowerment



The Bahrain and Oman teams pose for a group photograph

A new wave of hope and empowerment is crashing across the ice in Bahrain, thanks to the first-ever Women's Ice Hockey Tournament held in the Kingdom. The competition, which witnessed Bahrain grabbing a commendable third place, signifies a major step forward for women's sports in the region.

The two-day gathering in Manama saw teams from the UAE, Kuwait, Russia, Oman, and Saudi Arabia battle it out, with the UAE clinching gold, Kuwait securing silver, and Bahrain proudly taking home the bronze. But the real victory lies beyond the medals. "This is another step to introduce our women to the world, showcasing their skills and talents," stated by Abdullah Alkassemi, President of the Bahrain Ice Hockey Club. He emphasized the continuous development of women's sports in Bahrain, highlighting the team's ambition to secure membership in the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) by May.

Aziz Mattar, Conquest Of The Majestic Mount Kilimanjaro In Tanzania.

Aziz Mattar, an accomplished Bahraini athlete, recently achieved a remarkable feat by conquering the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Mattar shed light on the significance of acclimatisation techniques and body awareness in overcoming the challenges presented by high altitudes and limited oxygen levels.



Mattar along with his other teammates Maryam and Ziyad, symbolised unity, resilience, and the indomitable spirit of the Bahraini people.

To prepare for his expedition, Mattar dedicated considerable time to both physical and mental training. He engaged in visualisation exercises and practiced positive self-talk to bolster his mental resilience. Recognising the unpredictable weather conditions on Kilimanjaro, including rain, wind, and extreme temperatures, he made constant adjustments to his clothing layers.

The journey to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro presented additional obstacles, such as symptoms of altitude sickness like headaches and nausea. To overcome these challenges, Mattar prioritised self-care, ensuring he stayed hydrated and took necessary breaks when required.

As he ascended to the peak, Mattar proudly raised the flag of Bahrain, symbolising his deep connection to his homeland. Reflecting on this emotional experience, he shared, **“Raising the flag of Bahrain on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro evoked a powerful mix of emotions.”** Reaching Uhuru Peak, the highest point in Africa at an astounding elevation of 5,895 meters, proved to be an awe-inspiring test of Mattar’s mental and physical limits. Navigating treacherous terrain and coping with the thinning air demanded unwavering determination.

His accomplishment serves as an inspiration to fellow Bahraini citizens and athletes worldwide. Mattar expressed his heartfelt gratitude, stating, **“I am deeply grateful to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Bahrain Youth Association for their unwavering support throughout my journey. “Their invaluable assistance played a pivotal role in making this remarkable achievement possible.”**

On Fast Track To Glory

Team Bahrain gears up for Thailand International Touring Car Championship.

Team Bahrain is set to compete in the prestigious Thailand International Touring Car Championship RC (TITC) on February 29, 2024. Representing the entire GCC region, the team is currently undergoing rigorous preparations for the non-boost class race. TITC is recognised as one of the world’s premier RC racing events, attracting over 400-500 participants across 70 categories. This year’s edition will see racers from North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia vying for top honours. **“Team Bahrain last participated in the championship in 2014,”** Majed Al Thaqafi told The Daily Tribune. **“After nine years of dedicated training, we are confident and ready to reclaim victory.”**

“Our well-trained junior team is prepared to showcase their skills on the global stage, demonstrating the culmination of years of dedication.” The team comprises racers Faisal Waseem, Ebrahim Mohamed, and Adel Biljeek, supported by mechanics Saud Sulaibeekh and Majed Al-Thaqafi.

The competition schedule includes open and controlled practice sessions on March 1, followed by qualifying rounds on March 2, and culminating in the final race on March 3. Team Bahrain is grateful for the Bahrain Olympic Committee and the General Sports Authority’s support, allowing them to participate in this prestigious event.





Bhatia History Project

Dear THMC members,

Jai Shree Krishna.

Our Thattai Bhatia History Book Project has seen tremendous progress, despite the unprecedented events over the last year.

We are delighted to inform you that we have appointed a Historians and Researchers Ms. Swaleha Razi Ullah, Ph.D.Scholar, Department of History, University of Karachi, Pakistan to obtain information from various journals, articles and global libraries that are directly relate to our community in Thatta. She will also contribute in tracing the origin of Thattai Bhatia community in Thatta, and history with respect to their early occupation, socio-economic and political activities.



Ms. Swaleha Razi Ullah, Ph.D.Scholar,
Department of History, University of Karachi

We also received a great response to our request for old photographs, and we thank all of you that have taken out the time to scan and send them to us.

As we work on completing the final chapters of the book, we would appreciate your support and co-operation, so kindly send us any old photographs you may have. Every contribution will be rightly acknowledged. Please email your photographs to thmchistory@gmail.com.

If there are any questions that you may have, you can reach out to me & the following:
Bharti Baloor: 39443055 | Mukesh Megchiani: 39644939 | Amit Karani: 39601789

We look forward to your positive response at the earliest.

Regards,

Deepali Kavalani.



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Bhatia History Project

Hello Everyone,

As we continue to work on our Thattai Bhatia History book Project, we would like to capture the important contributions made by our community members in all spheres of social life in Bahrain. With this in mind we are requesting you to submit information about your family members / elders that have been active with NGO's, charity societies, public offices etc.

We require you to send us the name of the person, the organisation they were/are associated with and any images & Articles related to their contribution

We would like to expedite this process; to this end we need your co operation and assistance. Kindly do send us your information - please rest assured that names of all contributors will be acknowledged and mentioned in the book.

We look forward to your positive response at the earliest.

Please email this information to

thmchistory@gmail.com

ABOUT THMC

MISSION

THMC aspires to build on the strong legacy of the Bhatia business community, and to become Bahrain's leading entrepreneurial organisation

VISION

To strength the Bhatia entrepreneurs in Bahrain by always learning & evolving to make a positive impact on the society whilst continuing to retain our traditional values.

HISTORY

THMC was created in the early 1940s to strengthen the community and provide a platform for businessmen to address the various challenges facing them.

THMC Benefit Program 2023



The purpose of bringing out a membership card is to create a sense of belonging and exclusivity among members. By having a physical card, members can identify themselves as part of a select group with access to unique benefits and opportunities. This can create a sense of pride and loyalty, which can lead to increased engagement and participation in the organization's activities.

Membership cards can provide a range of benefits to members. For example, they may offer discounts or special offers on products or services, access to exclusive events or activities, or the ability to earn rewards points or loyalty rewards. Some organizations also offer personalized services or support to members, such as dedicated customer service representatives or personalized recommendations based on their preferences and interests.

As of 31-st DEC -2022 there were 52 member companies and 109 individual members. Two new companies joined the membership while two companies were removed from membership as they had been closed.

As of 30th April 2023, membership stood at 109 members representing 42 Companies.

Any Bhatia businessmen holding a valid Baharini CR can join the THMC and enjoy the following benefits.



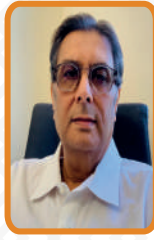


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Hon. President
Kavalani & Sons W.L.L.



Mr. VIREN V. BHATIA
Hon. Vice President
Oilfield & Technical Supplies W.L.L.



Mr. MUKESH N. MEGCHIANI
Hon. Secretary
Megchiani International W.L.L.



Mr. AMIT V. KARANI
Hon. Joint Secretary
D.K. Karani & Bros. W.L.L.



Mr. KUMAR L. GANDHI
Hon. Treasurer
Zenith Worldwide Property
Development Co. W.L.L.



Mr. YOGESH BHATIA
Hon. Joint Treasurer
Falcon Trading Co. W.L.L.



Mrs. BHARTI L. GAJRIA
Hon. Board Member
Gajria Holdings W.L.L.



Mr. DILIP T. BHATIA
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Bahrain Rustproofing Company W.L.L.



Mr. JAYANT LALCHAND
Hon. Board Member
C. Mulchand & Sons Co.



Mr. JAYANT M. BHATIA
Hon. Board Member
J Bhatia Enterprises



Mr. B. C. THAKER
Hon. Ex President
The National Trading House W.L.L.





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