

# Bahrain 'is ideal for logistics hub'

By LAALA KASHEF ALGHATA

BAHRAIN is ideally poised to become a highly sophisticated logistics centre by responding to global trends for high-tech warehousing, said an expert yesterday. "Based on its geo-strategic positioning, there is a good chance for Bahrain to become the distribution hub for fast-moving consumer goods, not only in Bahrain but also to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar." German-based logistics consultancy, TransCare president and chief executive Ralf Jahncke told the GDN.

He was speaking on the sidelines of a Press conference to announce the First GCC Logistics Conference to be held on March 30 and 31

at The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain. Titled 'Costs and Challenges', the forum will explore challenges faced at the border, rules and regulations, customs, investments and global trends in logistics. "I was asked last year by the Economic Development Board to do an audit report on transport and logistics sector in the country. "The idea was to see how Bahrain can follow Dubai and be a hub. "We looked into it and gave the report, with 75 slides and 28 recommended actions. "The basic result was that Bahrain is not the place to be the big hub with

the millions and millions of tonnes of volume. "But regarding global trends with e-commerce and digitalisation 4.0, there's a need for high sophisticated warehousing with value added services. "There's a good chance to establish Bahrain as the high sophisticated logistics part of the GCC states. "Based on the geo-strategic positioning of Bahrain, there is a good chance for it to be the distribution hub for fast-moving consumer goods, not only to Bahrain, but also to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar. "The entire conference is made up of discussion panels involving not just leaders but also management-level chief executives and

executive board members. "For instance, we called one Rules and Realities, because they are rules, but the realities are quite different." Mr Jahncke said that he wanted the conference to have fiery discussions that would identify where current problems lie. "I don't want people to blow hot air, I want contradictory discussions," he said. "So I've put people on the panels who have different views in their area of expertise, and then I look for moderators who are not just nice, but work like suspicious journalists and get the real situation out of it and find out where the trouble is and what is good." laala@gdn.com.bh

## Record bid by kite-surfer

A KITE-SURFER will take off today in an attempt to set a new world record by completing a 550km trip from Bahrain to Abu Dhabi. German national Anke Brandt aims to break her own record, which she set in 2014 when she travelled 250km in 12 hours around Bahrain. Her eight-member team will set sail from ART Rotana and complete the sailing mission at Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi. She will be kiting non-stop for up to 24 hours. They have already received permission from Bahrain, Qatar and Abu Dhabi coastguards, while transit visa arrangements have also been made. The journey will be tracked live through a link available on Ms Brandt's official website, www.ankebrandt.com. The record bid aims to raise funds for Wings for Life, an organisation trying to find a cure for spinal cord injury. People can also donate to Wings for Life through the website.

## Dragon City timing

DRAGON City at Diyar Al Muharrag has extended its opening hours from today until Saturday, following directives by the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority. It will be open to visitors from 10am to 2am in an effort to boost tourists from Gulf countries. The authority had directed malls and tourist areas to remain open longer during school holidays in a number of GCC countries.



The drugs seized from the suspects

## Two arrested with drugs

AN Arab and a Bahraini have been arrested with 400gm of marijuana, half a kilo of cocaine and half a kilo of hashish worth BD61,000. The general director of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science said an investigation was launched following a tip-off. The Arab suspect

was identified and caught red-handed selling the drugs. He confessed to getting the drugs through a Bahraini who was also caught red-handed. Cash was seized from his house, in addition to drug-dealing tools and narcotics. He said the case was referred to the Public Prosecution.



Pictures of a donkey on the run in Juffair were circulating on social media yesterday. The animal was seen near the Panorama Hotel attempting to cross the road to a nearby petrol station, causing traffic chaos. Above, the donkey crossing a street.



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