

JBL soundbars with Dolby Atmos launched in Qatar



The JBL Bar series.

JBL has launched a new series of soundbars, called the Bar series, in Qatar. It includes the following models: Bar500, Bar800 and Bar1000. The JBL Bar500 is a powerful soundbar with a maximum power output of 590W with 5.1 channels. "It features Multibeam technology that allows for a cinematic experience in one's home with Dolby Atmos 3D surround sound. The PureVoice technology optimises voice clarity while the wireless 10" subwoofer delivers precise bass. Additionally, it features HDMI eARC with 4K Dolby Vision passthrough with easy sound calibration and hallmark JBL signature sound," a press statement noted.

The JBL Bar800 is an "even more powerful soundbar" with 720W of total output power with seven channels - (5.1.2. channels). It includes Dolby Atmos and up-firing drivers, as well as completely wireless and detachable battery-powered rear surround speakers, allowing for an immersive 3D

cinema experience without the need for extra cables. "This superb sound bar also features HDMI eARC with 4K Dolby Vision passthrough with easy sound calibration and hallmark JBL signature sound," the statement explained.

The JBL Bar500, Bar800 and Bar1000 are all equipped with Airplay2, Alexa, MRM and Chromecast built-in, allowing the user to access over 300 online music streaming services. The JBL Bar1000 is the most powerful of the three, with 880W of total output power and a thunderous bass from the 10" wireless down-firing subwoofer. Like other models, the Bar1000 also features HDMI eARC with 4K Dolby Vision passthrough with easy sound calibration and hallmark JBL signature sound, the statement pointed out.

It also features MultiBeam and four up-firing drivers - two in the bar and two in the detachable battery-powered surround speakers - providing an immersive Dolby

Atmos and DTS:X 3D surround sound experience with a wide, spacious soundstage without the need for extra cables. All three models come with the JBL ONE App, which "allows you to customise and adjust audio equalisation to suit your preferences."

"JBL continues to amaze us with its superb innovations like PureVoice technology that ensure you never miss a word of dialogue, even when the surround effects are at their peak. Combined with JBL signature sound, our customers continue to be treated with such audio technology masterpieces," said C V Rappai, director and CEO, Video Home And Electronic Centre WLL, authorised distributors of JBL products in Qatar.

The JBL Bar500, Bar800 and Bar1000 are available at all Jumbo Electronics showrooms and leading hypermarkets across Qatar, covered by a well-established service network of Video Home's authorised service centres, ensuring peace of mind for customers, the statement added.

Ministry of Social Development and Family takes part in 'Honey and Kinar' festival

The Ministry of Social Development and Family (MSDF), represented by the Department of Family Affairs, is participating in the 'Honey and Kinar' festival, organised at Al Rayyan Public Park by the Ministry of Municipality and represented by the Department of Agricultural Affairs.

This participation comes within the framework of the seasonal activities of national productive projects, a statement from the MSDF said.

It also aims to encourage farmers to increase honey production and provide various national products in the local market.

The event, which started on February 9, is being held over the weekend during four weeks, under the title 'Production from our farms' to promote local farm products.

Many local farms specialising in honey and kinar (sidra fruit) are participating in this event in support of the efforts made by the MSDF, and its keenness to



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provide all means of help. The owners of productive projects expressed their appreciation to the MSDF for providing the opportunity and highlighted the

importance of honey and kinar for human health. The kinar fruit contains vitamin A, maintains the health of teeth and bones, and has an important place in

Qatari society, as it is the fruit of the native Sidra tree, widely seen across Qatar. Honey is rich in iron, zinc, and has many other benefits, the statement added.

Local farm owners welcome plan to link subsidies to productivity

A project of the Agricultural Affairs Department at the Ministry of Municipality to link subsidies given to local farms to the productivity of such farms has been welcomed by a good number of farm owners and managers.

They told local Arabic daily *Al-Rayyan* that the ongoing study being carried as part of the project will have a positive impact on the local agricultural production when implemented.

They pointed out that such linking would

encourage local farms to increase production and reduce the cost of production simultaneously.

Eventually, this would lead to exerting more efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of various food items.

Besides, limiting subsidies to productive farms would reflect positively on the local market and help stabilise the retail prices of fresh products.

Ghanim al-Kuwari, a farm owner, stressed the positive impacts of this project and its

practical reflection on the food market within the country. He pointed out that the department gives excellent subsidies to registered farms and saves them huge operational costs, in addition to giving technical and other support. However, when such subsidies are focused and limited to productive farms, the outcomes will be much better for all.

Issa al-Kuwari, another farm owner, called for more specialised subsidies given to productive farms according to their type of production and the areas they excel.

Qatar Indian Management Association to celebrate 23rd Foundation Day

The Qatar Indian Management Association (QIMA) has announced that it will be hosting an event to celebrate its 23rd Foundation Day, in conjunction with the 67th Foundation Day of the All India Management Association (AIMA), on March 13 at Westin Doha hotel.

The event will focus on 'Managing the Unprecedented: Harnessing Uncertainty', and provide business leaders with the necessary tools and insights to navigate today's unpredictable economic landscape, a press statement noted.

Shiv Shivakumar, the Group president of Aditya Birla Group in India, will be the keynote speaker at the event.

With his expertise in managing the challenges of today's business environment, Shivakumar will share insights on the importance of innovation, agility and resilience. The event will provide a unique opportunity for professionals to network, learn and share experiences, while celebrating the successes of QIMA and AIMA and their contributions to the business world in Qatar and India.

Management experts from Qatar and India will speak during the event which would be attended by more than 100 delegates from the management sphere.

"We are thrilled to be celebrating our 23rd Foundation Day with AIMA's 67th Foundation Day," said Salim Abdulkareem, president of QIMA. "We believe Shivakumar's speech will inspire and motivate business leaders to navigate the uncertainties of today's world and achieve success in their respective fields."

"As a non-profit organisation, QIMA is dedicated to promoting best practices in management and leadership, and providing a platform for professionals to learn, share experiences and network. The event is expected to bring together top businessmen from the Qatari and Indian community, strengthening the importance of management practices and techniques through collaborations with professional bodies and institutions," added Sheldine Victor, general secretary of QIMA.

For more information on the event, contact the organisers via e-mail: qima@aimaqatar.org

Qatar Museums launches Sustainability Week 2023 today

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■ **Donation/Recycling Day** at MIA and NMOQ on February 21: dedicated collection areas will be available in both museums for donations that will be provided to Qatar Charity/Qatar Red Crescent Society.

■ **Light Out Day** on February 21: in efforts to reduce unnecessary energy usage, Qatar Museums is set to switch off lights across all its facilities overnight for half an hour.

■ **Sustainability in Arts & Culture** on February 22: host-

ed in collaboration with the Doha Fire Station, artists and experts will discuss sustainable art practices.

■ **Beach Clean-up** on February 23: volunteers will have the opportunity to take part in a beach clean-up activity alongside Qatar Museums' staff and will receive a certificate of appreciation for supporting the local community.

Qatar Museums CEO Ahmad al-Namla said, "At Qatar Museums, we are committed to support Qatar's cultural ecosystem through initiatives grounded by innovation and

sustainability. In line with the Qatar National Vision 2030 and Qatar Museums' vision of being an active player in the development of a more sustainable and contemporary culture where people live in harmony with nature, we host the Sustainability Week 2023. We encourage the public to join us this week to learn more about sustainable practices which will ensure a better future for our nation."

To learn more about the events and to register, visit: <https://forms.gle/RUT-FVB3q5FGKrQY78>

Monitor: Death toll in suspected IS attack in Syria rises to 68

The death toll from an attack blamed on the Islamic State group in Syria has risen to 68, a war monitor said yesterday, the deadliest attack in over a year, AFP reported from Beirut.

"A total of 61 civilians and seven soldiers have been killed in the attack," said Rami Abdel Rahman, who heads the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The Britain-based Observatory, which has a wide network of sources inside Syria, said the attack had been carried out on Friday by jihadists on motorcycles who opened fire on truffle hunters. The monitor said that IS was taking advantage of the annual harvest of the desert fungus delicacy.

Thousands of Nigerians rally a week before presidential vote

AFP
Abuja

The frontrunners in Nigeria's presidential race hit the campaign trail yesterday in a major push to convince voters a week before the polls.

More than 90m people are registered to vote in Nigeria where President Muhammadu Buhari is stepping down after his two terms allowed by the constitution.

Waving from the top of an open-air double-decker bus, the ruling party's candidate Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC) paraded through the streets of Maiduguri in northeast Borno state.

Several hundred supporters ran alongside the convoy as they made their way to Elkane-mi Sports Centre where more people with flags and banners were gathered to hear the candidate speak.

A political veteran and former governor of Lagos, Tinubu is expected to stage a final rally in his hometown on Tuesday.

In nearby Adamawa state, the main opposition candidate Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) also made his entrance aboard a double-decker bus into Mahmud Ribadu Square in the city of Yola.

A massive crowd awaited Abubakar, singing, dancing, many decked out in traditional clothes, with a camel even among the throng.

"Atiku," as he is widely known, was vice-president from 1999 to 2007 and is making his sixth attempt at the presidency.

"He's long waited for this opportunity, we've been praying for a unifier, a man that brings about unity in the country," supporter Victor Dogo said.

Outsider candidate Peter Obi from the Labour Party (LP) was



Supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) gather during a rally in Maiduguri, yesterday ahead of the Nigerian presidential elections scheduled for February 25.

not seen on the campaign trail yesterday but took to social media to call on his supporters, "the Obidients", to rally in several cit-

ies across the country.

In the capital Abuja, several hundred Obi supporters wearing colourful attire marched

from the centre to the city gate, chanting and blowing yuvuzula horns. "We are taking our country back," said businesswoman

Maureen Kabrik who supports Obi. "He's the only one that stands out, he is the only one who has been speaking to the people."

Another candidate vying for the top job in the nation, Rabiu Kwankwaso of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), was in northern Taraba state's town of Mutum Biyu where crowds cheered him on. Campaigning is taking place as the nation faces widespread insecurity and tensions over a currency crisis.

Yesterday morning, gunmen attacked a police station in the Ogidi area of southeastern Anambra state.

"The hoodlums started shooting sporadically on approaching the area command and threw improvised explosive devices and petrol bombs, gaining entrance (into the station)," police spokesman Ikenga Tochukwu said in a statement.

"Three police operatives paid the supreme price," Tochukwu

added. Unrest in the southeast is just one of the challenges facing security forces, who are also fighting a 14-year-old militant insurgency in the northeast and kidnapping gangs in the north-east.

Nigerians have also been struggling with a shortage of cash since the central bank introduced newly designed notes in December, banning old ones.

But in its effort to promote "cashless" payments and reduce the volume of money outside the banking system, the central bank printed a much smaller amount of notes than were previously in circulation.

The lack of cash has triggered protests in major cities this week, with customers attacking banks and barricading roads just days before elections. Tensions have also emerged inside the ruling APC party, with accusations that the cash crisis could frustrate Tinubu's election bid.