

# Woman injured in terror blast

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**Manama**

A Bahraini woman was injured in a blast that occurred in Sanabis on Thursday night.

Interior Ministry said the woman sustained minor injuries as she was passing through the site when the blast took place. The ministry confirmed that police took the necessary procedures.

The incident was widely condemned by many. Governor of Capital Governorate Shaikh Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa visited the victim who was admitted to Salmaniya Medical Complex (SMC).

Shaikh Hisham stressed on the importance of unifying



Shaikh Hisham (second from right) inquiring about the condition of the woman at SMC

Mane'a added that the victim underwent medical surgeries and her condition is stabilising. Health Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Hospital Affairs Dr. Waleed Al

## Bahrain to host forum on domestic violence

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Bahrain will host the 11th forum for sociologists in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states on November 21-23 under the patronage of Minister of Labour & Social Development Jameel Humaidan.

The Bahrain Society of Sociologists will organise the

event in cooperation with the Arabian Gulf Association of Sociologists and the Labour and Social Development Ministry.

The three-day symposium will focus on combating aspects of domestic violence in the GCC member states. The forum will coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence

against Women, which falls on November 25.

The United Nations General Assembly has designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject domestic violence and other forms of violence.

### Thinking green

Rehan Ahmed



## Compact Gardens

This year's Bahrain International Garden Show (BIGS) is organized in the Kingdom of Bahrain from 22-26th February at the Bahrain International Exhibition Center and is featuring the latest agricultural innovations in utilizing limited resources to create small compact or mini gardens or green spaces in order to achieve agricultural development and sustainability.

The theme of current year BIGS is "Compact Gardens", which is very much related to the situation in the country. With high population density and limited land area and urban spaces make it difficult to have any significant green spaces especially in the center of Manama, where the majority of population resides. The common understanding is that greenery development is to be provided by the government organizations and such development has little impact on health of the individuals. With this background, awareness is required that small and compact gardens can be made even with small spaces and in urban areas but require a will to do for which information is being provided at BIGS. Many organizations like Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), University of Bahrain and others are displaying and demonstrating unique ideas in utilizing limited spaces to easily create environmental friendly homes and compact gardens.

The theme of "Compact Gardens" is to be taken as a priority based on the urban population increase and decreasing green cover in the country. Small urban gardens can produce volumes of food, flowers, fragrance, beauty,

and require little time to manage and maintain. Urban gardeners with a windowsill, indoor pot, balcony, verandah, courtyard or backyard can all grow incredible edibles for the kitchen table, fragrant cut flowers or vibrant color, privacy screens and much more.

At the BIGS 2017, visitors will benefit from the variety of displays relating to gardening in a small spaces including design ideas for Roof and Terrace Gardening, Container gardening, Vertical gardens and raised bed gardening.

A section in the exhibition has also been allocated to showcase pictures of local homes and buildings with creative ways to introduce different plants and flowers that are suited to limited spaces based on our weather conditions and resources. Other sections have been allocated to showcase practical ideas and solutions for designing small spaces in residential areas such as balconies, roofs and exteriors, focusing on the beneficial impacts of greenery development that can avoid and minimize pollution. In addition such greenery is not only aesthetically appealing but also beautifies residences and can provide fresh produce based on the owners' needs.

BIGS has now become a platform for experts and enthusiasts to further develop their expertise and knowledge with the latest best practices in the industry. BIGS is playing a major role in developing the agricultural sector by expanding green areas, increasing local produce and achieving food sufficiency. The various competitions held also enhance the awareness in using available spaces for greenery development

and changing our weather pattern to eliminate the adverse impacts due to climate change which is a big threat to island countries.

It is envisaged that this year's theme of Compact Gardens will provide good information to the residents to maximize available space and resources to create more fruits and vegetable gardens. This can be achieved by various methods and techniques and require limited water and resources. The rain water, AC water and household used water can be easily used. BIGS is also displaying on how much carbon emissions a person produces per day and how plants can help reduce these emissions.

The SCE is showing a house at the pavilion adopting green principles include conserving for energy, water, waste and recycling besides good insulation and ventilation. The house shows the concept of roof garden and utilization of renewable energy by using solar panels and LED lights for energy efficient lighting. The organic waste generated at the household can be utilized in making compost at the garden. Recycling bins are to be provided for storing aluminium, paper, glass and plastics.

We have a major role to play in improving our home and immediate surroundings to enhance our and family's health status. At minimum, we can do the following:

- Separate the organic waste at home and use in making compost.
- Reuse material for the compact garden including plastic bottles, jars and containers in making flower containers.
- Reuse wooden material, planks and pallets in making containers and barriers for holding soil and compost.
- Use recycled water in greenery development.

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(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)

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