

“Robot Ahmed” and “Evoha” Crowned as Winners in the 26th Edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch

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As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the Kingdom of Bahrain and support the growth of startups, StartUp Bahrain, the Kingdom's leading national platform for supporting startups, powered by Tamkeen, hosted the 26th edition of StartUp Bahrain Pitch.

The event was held in the presence of H.E. Noor bint Ali Al Khulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the Bahrain Development Board, H.E. Maha Abdulhameed Mofeez, Chief Executive of the Labour Fund “Tamkeen”, Ms. Dalal Al Ghais, Chief Executive of the Bahrain Development Bank Group, as well as Members of the SME Development Board, and Tamkeen Board of Directors members.

The Startup Pitch series is held in collaboration with the SMEs Development Board and provides an



Noor bint Ali Al Khulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development and Chief Executive of the Bahrain Economic Development Board, with the award winners during the recognition ceremony

interactive platform for entrepreneurs to showcase their ventures before a group of experts and investors, and gain the mentorship and guidance needed to further develop their ideas and enhance their growth and expansion.

The event featured the participation of a group of leading speakers, experts, and investors from the entrepreneurship ecosystem,

including Husain Haji, Chief Operating Officer at DOO and keynote speaker at the event; Mashael Fairouz, Founding Partner of JEO Capital Management; Noorhan AlZann from Noor Consultancy & Coaching; and Laith Al Khalili, Associate Partner at Mumtalakat.

The event also showcased a group of innovative startups offering digital and technology-driven

solutions across various sectors, including Evoha, an AI-powered energy management platform, Jumruk, that automates custom clearance, Robot Ahmed, an Arabic-speaking educational robot; and As-humi, a trading platform.

After the participating startups presented their projects and were evaluated by the judging panel, the winners were announced, with

“Robot Ahmed” awarded first place and “Evoha” awarded second place.

On this occasion, Hanadi Al Onazi from “Robot Ahmed” expressed her pride in winning first place, saying: “This win marks an important milestone in our journey and reflects the efforts made by the team to develop an innovative business model capable of meeting market needs. Our participation in StartUp Bahrain Pitch provided us with a valuable opportunity to showcase our idea before a group of experts and investors, and benefit from their valuable feedback in a way that supports our growth and expansion plans. Our journey began with the Mashroo3i program under Tamkeen, which laid the foundation for our project and we are deeply proud of the journey that has culminated in this success at StartUp Bahrain Pitch.”

Second place winner, Nawaf Hamadi from “Evoha”, affirmed that this achievement serves as a

strong motivation to continue developing the business model, noting that participating in StartUp Bahrain Pitch provided an important platform to introduce the project, connect with entrepreneurs, investors, and specialists within the startup ecosystem, and open new horizons for its development and sustainability.

Tamkeen's support for StartUp Bahrain aligns with its strategic priorities for 2026, which focus on supporting initiatives with high economic impact, enhancing the competitiveness of the private sector, connecting skills with the needs of the labor market, and adopting innovative approaches to stimulate the growth and expansion of startups, contributing to the Kingdom's sustainable economic development.

For more information about StartUp Bahrain and to participate in future editions of StartUp Bahrain Pitch, follow @startupbahrain on social media.

Events Sector Drives Tourism Growth

Ministry works with event companies to attract regional and international events

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Bahrain is focusing on developing its events sector as a key contributor to tourism growth and attracting more regional and international events.

Tourism Minister Fatima bint Jaafar Al Sairafi highlighted the importance of cooperation with private event management companies during a meeting to discuss ways to strengthen the sector.

She said partnerships with the private sector are essential to delivering high-quality events that

enhance Bahrain's position as a leading destination, while supporting industries including hospitality, retail, transport, logistics and creative sectors.

The meeting also reviewed plans to expand the events industry by leveraging Bahrain's modern venues, infrastructure and local expertise, while improving coordination among stakeholders.

The initiatives align with the Kingdom's Tourism Strategy 2022–2026, aimed at increasing tourism opportunities and attracting major events.

Event management represent-



atives welcomed the ministry's continued support and reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing Bahrain's competitiveness in the regional and international events market.

Mismanaged Donation Boxes Removed

Campaign Targets Unregulated and Poorly Placed Boxes

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Hasan Barakat

Authorities in Bahrain's Northern Governorate have launched a large-scale removal campaign targeting around 5,000 charity donation boxes following inspections that found many were poorly managed, illegally placed, or not properly monitored by the organisations whose names they carried.

The move comes as part of efforts to regulate public spaces and ensure donation activities are carried out through properly supervised channels.

Three-Month Deadline for Owners

Public Complaints

The Northern Municipality has given box owners three months to reclaim the removed containers, after this period, they will lose the right to claim them. The issue was discussed during the final meeting of the Northern Municipal Council's term in Budaiya, where officials highlighted the scale of the problem.

Northern Municipality Director-General Mohammed Al Sehli said some charitable organisations lacked accurate



records of where their boxes were placed, while others relied on private companies to manage collections in exchange for a share of proceeds. He said the lack of oversight raised concerns about transparency and accountability in how donation boxes operated in public areas.

Councillor Abdulla Al Qobaisi said residents had long complained about donation boxes placed in unsafe locations. He noted that some motorists stop on busy roads to use them, creating traffic risks, while others obstruct visibility at intersections and affect neighbourhood appearance.

He also warned that poorly maintained boxes had, in some cases, become shelter for animals, leading to safety concerns.

ISB Launches BD 400,000 Smart Classroom Initiative

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Pradeep Puravankara

The Indian School Bahrain (ISB) has officially inaugurated its highly anticipated Smart Classroom Project, marking a major milestone in the school's digital transformation strategy across its campuses. The landmark launch event at the Jashanmal Auditorium in the Isa Town Campus was attended by senior education officials, telecom partners, and community dignitaries.

The ambitious project represents a total investment of approximately BD 400,000, modernizing traditional learning spaces across both the Isa Town and Riffa campuses to directly benefit nearly 11,500 students. This technology-driven initiative overhauls classroom infrastructure, featuring the installation of state-of-the-art

interactive digital smartboards in classrooms, libraries, and laboratories to enhance academic engagement. Alongside the educational tools, a comprehensive, campus-wide CCTV network has been integrated to significantly boost campus safety.

The project was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest, H.E. Dr. Sana Saeed Abdulla Al Haddad, Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Educational Licensing at the Ministry of Education. Following the ribbon-cutting, attendees were given a live demonstration of a smart classroom session utilizing the new digital display technology. Dr. Al Haddad praised the initiative as an outstanding model for integrating modern technologies into the learning process and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to supporting private school initiatives that align with Bahrain's sustainable development goals.

Opposition Panels Merge to Challenge ISB Governing Body Over Mismanagement

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Pradeep Puravankara

Opposition panels at the Indian School Bahrain (ISB) have formed a unified front to challenge what they term as “severe mismanagement” by the current school administration. In a joint press conference, leaders announced that the Indian School Parents Forum (ISPF) and Index have merged into the United Parents Panel (UPP) to address ongoing administrative and financial failures. The move comes as the school prepares for the next Management Committee election, expected between October and December.

The UPP strongly criticized the school's handling of a recent Special General Body meeting called to discuss tuition fee arrears. The opposition pointed out that parents

with outstanding dues were barred from attending and stripped of voting rights, while only those who had cleared their fees were allowed in. The UPP questioned if the administration is keeping families in debt to exploit them as an election “vote bank,” stressing that resolving the school's financial issues requires open dialogue, not selective exclusion.

Financial mismanagement has also severely impacted staff welfare. While previous committees paid salaries on time alongside summer leave allowances, the current body has been distributing monthly pay in installments, though June salaries were recently cleared following intense parent pressure. The UPP clarified that parents must pay their fees but blamed the massive accumulation of arrears on the administration's systemic failure.

Two Expats Jailed Over Fake Degrees

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Rehab Mohammad

The Lower Criminal Court has sentenced two foreign defendants to six months in prison in separate cases involving the use of forged university degrees to secure employment in private schools. The court also ordered the confiscation of the fake documents and the permanent deportation of both individuals after serving their sentences.

According to the Deputy Chief of the Cybercrime Prosecution, the defendants submitted falsi-

fied academic certificates to private educational institutions and to relevant authorities responsible for verifying and accrediting qualifications. They intended to use these documents to secure approval for teaching positions.

The case came to light after the Ministry of Education flagged suspicious certificates through routine inspection and verification procedures conducted in coordination with a specialised company. The process is designed to ensure the authenticity of academic qualifications required for teaching roles.