

The Human Touch Behind the Machine

The invention aims to speed up sand painting production

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

After years of working in sand art, Bahraini artist Zahra Al Nasser is developing a robot that can create sand paintings using artificial intelligence (AI).

The project aims to make the production process faster and help turn her artwork into products that can be produced and sold in larger numbers.

Al Nasser explained that the robot will allow her to complete paintings much faster. She said creating one painting currently takes around two weeks to one month, while the robot could complete it in one or two days. This would help her meet the growing demand for her sand paintings.

She also said she has successfully completed her first invention, received a patent for it and won an international award for the invention.

Her second device, which is linked to the development of the AI-powered sand art robot, is still being developed. The industrial model has already been prepared, and she is now completing the process of applying for its patent.

Al Nasser's plans go beyond developing the robot. She aims to set up a production line for sand paintings and make them available in the market, allowing customers to access her work



more easily and at a reasonable price.

She also plans to launch a website where customers can view her paintings, place orders online and have them shipped around the world.

From Hand-Made Art to a Robot

Explaining how the robot will work, Al Nasser said the original design will be created by her. The design will then be translated into steps that the robot can



follow to recreate the painting using the same process.

The aim is for the robot to produce a copy that matches the original artwork.

Once the painting is completed, it will be fixed using special materials to protect it and help it last for more than five years.

Al Nasser said she is not worried that the robot could replace her as an artist. She will supervise the machine and closely follow its work.

She stressed that human talent should lead technology, not the other way around. The robot will be a tool to support her talent and increase her ability to produce more artwork, while the creative work will remain in the hands of the artist.

Al Nasser also hopes to use the engineering skills she studied to support her artistic work by bringing together engineering, art and technology in her sand art project.

From Numbers to Classroom Champions

Teacher turns lessons into games, competitions and instant quizzes for primary pupils

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Maths lessons at Al Salam Primary Girls School are taking a different approach, with pupils competing for classroom titles including “Queen of Mental Arithmetic” and “Queen of Mathematics”.

Teacher Ghaida Zubair Al Askari uses the roles, along with games, competitions and practical activities, to encourage pupils to participate and take responsibility during lessons. She said each class follows a structured process that moves from preparation and practice to competition and assessment.

“I begin the lesson with an opening activity that gets the pupils thinking and brings back what they already know,” she said. “Then I present the concept through practical activities they take part in directly, using number tools such as number fans, counting sticks and number cards.”

Pupils then apply what they have learned through tasks and discussions before completing an instant assessment to identify their level of understanding



and areas where they need further support.

Technology is also incorporated through Quizizz Paper Mode, which allows pupils to answer using printed cards that can be scanned to assess their performance during the lesson.

The classroom leadership roles give pupils opportunities to participate, demonstrate their mathematical skills and take responsibility in different activities.

Pupils Hawra Hussain Khudhair and Fatima Mohammed Al Mawali said the variety of activities and learning tools had increased their engagement and made maths a subject they enjoy.

The approach reflects wider efforts by teachers in government schools to use interactive teaching methods, with support and follow-up from the Ministry of Education.

Year-Round Training Proposed for Youth City 2030

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Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to turn Youth City 2030 into a year-round training platform for AI, cyber security, fintech and other future skills has been submitted by MP Dr Munir Seroor.

The plan would take the scheme beyond its main summer season, with new ‘Future Skills and Careers’ tracks aimed at preparing young Bahrainis for fields expected to grow in the years ahead.

AI, data, cyber security, financial technology, advanced manufacturing, space science, the green economy and creative industries are among the areas named.

The tracks would be reviewed regularly with input from the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Labour Fund ‘Tamkeen’, the Ministry of Labour, universities, private firms and professional and technology bodies.

Dr Seroor said young people should be trained before demand for new skills rises, rather than only for jobs already on offer.

‘The idea is to anticipate rather than wait,’ he said.

‘Training young people should not be limited to the jobs available today. We should begin preparing them early for the skills and careers that Bahrain’s economy is expected to need in the future.’

The plan would take young people from finding their interests and strengths into skills training and practical work with private firms.

Where possible, they would then be linked to vocational training, jobs or support for youth business ideas.

Companies and professional



“Giving young people a clearer path to work.”

- DR MUNIR SEROOR, MP

bodies would also be asked to provide work projects, industry challenges and field training.

Dr Seroor said Youth City 2030 already brings together learning and training in science, technology, work skills, sport, culture, media, leadership and entrepreneurship.

His proposal would build on the existing scheme rather than create a new body. Summer would remain its biggest season, while smaller specialist programmes would run through the rest of the year.

The plan also seeks to cut the gap between the skills young people have and those employers are looking for, while helping participants make clearer choices about study and work.

Those who perform well could be linked with training and job openings, while promising youth ideas could move into schemes that help turn them into businesses.

‘Youth City 2030 would develop from its success as a summer youth destination into a national platform that looks ahead to the future of young people and helps them discover their abilities and build the skills they will need before entering the labour market,’ Dr Seroor said.

New Hub Targets a Greener Future



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Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa has inaugurated the Istadama Centre of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture in Manama.

The centre will serve as a specialised hub for awareness, training and capacity-building in sustainability, the green econ-

omy and carbon neutrality. It aims to strengthen environmental knowledge and encourage the adoption of sustainable practices across different sectors.

Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak and Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Bin Dainah attended the inauguration.

Shaikh Khalid said continued



investment in infrastructure and innovation would support sustainability across vital sectors. He stressed the importance of using resources efficiently and maintaining a balance between economic growth and environmental protection within government development programmes.

He noted that sustainability remains a priority in national development plans and is linked to Bahrain’s commitments to

the Sustainable Development Goals and its target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

The Deputy Prime Minister also highlighted the role of public-private partnerships in turning sustainability goals into practical initiatives. He said private-sector projects can complement government efforts by developing national talent and providing people with the knowledge and tools needed for environmental innovation.

4 Asians Convicted of Laundering BD482,199

Money from drug trafficking moved through bank accounts

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Rehab Mohammad

Four Asian defendants were involved in laundering BD482,199 obtained from drug trafficking by receiving and transferring the money through bank accounts inside and outside Bahrain and carrying out financial transactions to make it appear to have come from a legitimate source.

The four defendants were part of a larger network involved in drug trafficking. Some members of the network sold and distributed drugs, while others received the proceeds and

transferred the money abroad as apparently legitimate funds.

The money involved in the case came from drug sales carried out by other defendants.

The Drug Crimes Unit at the Public Prosecution investigated the drug trafficking offences. The National Financial Intelligence Centre also traced the money’s movement and found that the four defendants, along with two others, were involved in money laundering.

The Financial and Money Laundering Crimes Prosecution then investigated the case. Investigators froze the defendants’ bank accounts and fol-

lowed the money’s movement, including its source and destination.

Investigators also examined messages and audio recordings found on the defendants’ phones concerning drug sale and supply, as well as documents showing money receipt and transfer.

The defendants were questioned and confronted with the evidence gathered during the investigation.

The investigation found that the four defendants had formed a criminal network and carried out financial and banking transactions to hide the mon-

ey’s source obtained from drug trafficking.

The Fifth High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld the lower court’s ruling, sentencing the four defendants to five years in prison.

Each defendant was fined BD100,000 and ordered to be permanently deported after serving the sentence.

The court also ordered the confiscation of BD211,223 from the first defendant’s money and property, BD155,906.294 from the second defendant, BD77,910.929 from the third defendant and BD37,159.220 from the fourth defendant.