

BICAS to hold Rangoli Contest, Dandiya Night

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Bahrain India Cultural Arts Services (BICAS), in collaboration with Convex Media, is organizing a grand, full-day Diwali celebration on October 10th at the Gulf Air Club in Salmabad.

The festivities, which blend cultural traditions with entertainment, are set to begin with the Rangoli contest, an integral part of Diwali tradition, scheduled from 9 AM to 12 PM.

Teams consisting of two to four members are eligible to participate in the competition, which offers free registration.

Organizers noted that participants are requested to bring their own materials for the competition.

The evening will feature a variety of cultural performances, including numerous dance and music programs, running from 5 PM to 10 PM.

Public meeting

A public meeting in connection with the celebration will be inaugurated by the Indian Ambassador to Bahrain, H.E. Vinod K. Jacob.



The full-day Diwali celebration is set for October 10th at the Gulf Air Club in Salmabad.

Following the formal session, the highlight of the night will be a vibrant Dandiya Night led by famous DJ Nirmal.

The event offers free entry to all, and organizers anticipate a turnout of approximately 1,500 people for the Dandiya celebration.

Officials explained the details of the event at a recent press conference.

Attendees included Bhagwan Asarpota (BICAS President), Ravishankar, Madhuri Prakash Devji, Ajith Nair (Convex Media Managing Director), Sonia Sreekumar (Rangoli Convener), Ramachandra Shekhar, and Suresh Babu (Event Convenor).

Races heat up

Al Dhaen only female candidate in committee chairmanship elections

14 MPs vying for five parliamentary chairmanship seats

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Fourteen MPs will contest five committee chairs next week, with only one woman, Maryam Al Dhaen, in the running.

All five standing committees plan internal elections as incumbents seek another term and rivals move to unseat them.

Women are seen as having better chances for vice-chair posts, which would broaden their role in the chamber's work. Further names may enter before opening day.

Attention first falls on the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee. Current chair Mahmood Fardan wants another year.

Colleague

Abdulahakim Al Sheno had earlier said he would run; he has since stepped aside, saying he is not ready to chair in the coming period and would rather back a colleague in this final session.

"There was an initial wish, and colleagues showed support for it, but personally I do not see myself ready in the coming period to chair the committee, not for technical reasons. I prefer to support another colleague in the final session," he said.



Council of Representatives in session

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee points to a two-man race between chair Ahmed Al Salloom and vice-chair Mohammed Al Maarifi, with talk of a mutual arrangement to avoid a split.

Expectations

Al Maarifi said he will stand, noting he followed many carry-over files last session and wants them finished to meet public expectations.

He called for accord among members to deliver outcomes that serve people directly, adding that the last session will carry weighty projects and needs firm understandings among MPs.

The Services Committee is set for a busy vote.

Bids



MP Maryam Al Dhaen

Dr Mahdi Al Shuwikh, Mohammed Al Olaiwi and Munir Seroor are preparing bids, with other entrants not ruled out.

Seroor said he has a 'serious desire' to run and spoke of early understandings that are not yet settled.

The positions of current chair Jaleela Al Sayed and her col-

league Lulwa Al Rumaihi are likely to matter.

In Public Utilities and Environment, some members favour keeping Bader Al Tamimi to draw on past experience.

Interest

Khalid Buanaq has signalled interest subject to talks, and Mohammed Janahi said he will run, arguing it may be time to bring forward new faces and that he is ready to carry the role in the interests of the chamber and the public.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security is calmer, with signs of support to keep Hassan Bukhamas as chair.

Even so, MP Al Dhaen says she is weighing a bid, and there is talk that Hassan Ebrahim is considering one, though he has yet to give a final view.

Jail term upheld for motorist in fatal red-light crash



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Appeal Court issues six-month sentence

TDT | Manama

An appeal court has upheld a six-month jail term and a one-year driving licence suspension for a motorist who ran a red light and hit a pedestrian who was walking while pulling his bicycle, leading to the man's death.

The High Criminal Court of Appeal confirmed the sentence on the basis that the appellant failed to take due care and entered a junction against a red signal.

Property

The Public Prosecution recorded damage to third-party property as part of the case.

Court papers say the crash happened at 5.56pm on 25 July 2025 on Shaikh Salman Highway.

The appellant was driving west in the left lane as he reached the traffic lights.

He went through the red and into the intersection.



The appellant failed to take due care and entered a junction against a red signal.

At that moment the victim stepped off the kerb, crossed the first lane on foot with his bicycle, and moved into the second.

The car struck him with the right side of its front.

Injuries

The impact threw the victim onto the windscreen and forwards. He suffered severe injuries and died in hospital.

The defendant admitted the sequence of events. Damage was recorded to the vehicle and the bicycle, along with other property.

BSA takes part in Artemis leadership meeting

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) participated in the fourth meeting of the heads of space agencies of the Artemis Accords member states, held on the sidelines of the 76th International Astronautical Congress in Sydney, Australia.

This year's meeting included extensive discussions on the key directions of the Artemis partnership, as well as a wide ranging workshop reviewing the work of the main task forces since the third meeting.

Participants also reviewed the outcomes and recommendations of the workshop held in Dubai earlier this year and discussed means to further strengthen cooperation among member countries.

The agency was represented at the high level meeting by Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Aseeri, Chief Executive Officer; Rasha Al Amad, Head of Strategic Planning; and space engineer Yaqoob Al Qassab.

Dr. Al Aseeri said that Bahrain's participation in the fourth Artemis leadership meeting focused on several aspects, including following up on the implementation of organisational mechanisms among member states to achieve optimal results, re-



"The partnership serves as a key source of technology and provider of space data that enriches joint work, aligning with Bahrain's strategic goal of building a sustainable national space sector."

- DR. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM AL ASEERI, CEO OF BAHRAIN SPACE AGENCY

viewing key documents and reports, and proposing practical solutions to priority issues in line with the group's objectives.

Stage set for 'An Evening on the Sea' concert

Oct. 10, 2025 at 8pm at Bahrain National Theater

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Dr. Mubarak Najem, is finalising preparations for its upcoming concert, "An Evening on the Sea," scheduled for Friday, October 10, 2025, at 8 p.m. at the Bahrain National Theater.

The performance forms part of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) celebrations marking the Bahrain International Music Festival, with the support of the Bahrain Tourism and

The performance forms part of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) celebrations marking the Bahrain International Music Festival.

Exhibitions Authority (BTEA).

Tickets for the concert sold out in less than 24 hours following the announcement — an unprecedented response for a local cultural event.

The strong public demand underscores the enduring popularity of the late artist Ali Bahar and his band, whose music continues to resonate deeply with audiences in Bahrain and beyond.

Interest

Amid the overwhelming interest, fans have called on festival organisers to consider adding an additional performance night to accommodate more attendees eager to experience this special musical tribute.

The concert will feature orchestral renditions of some of the most celebrated works by the late Ali Bahar and the Bahraini Brothers Band.

The new arrangements, crafted under the supervision of Maestro Dr. Mubarak Najem, aim to merge the authenticity of Bahraini music with the grandeur of orchestral performance—offering a moving homage to an artist whose legacy remains deeply rooted in the cultural and musical memory of Bahrain and the Gulf region.