

When a Painting Says What Words Cannot

Gulf's First MS Centre Puts Patients' Stories at the Heart of Awareness Day



TDI | Manama
Hasan Barakat

A morning filled with colour, creativity and resilience unfolded at the NBB Multiple Sclerosis Centre in Busaiteen, where people living with multiple sclerosis used art to express hope and strength.

The event, organised by the Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Patients Society to mark World Multiple Sclerosis Day, brought together patients, doctors, families and supporters in an awareness gathering focused on the human experience of the disease.

The NBB Multiple Sclerosis Centre, regarded as the first of its kind in the Arabian Gulf, provides integrated care for MS patients under one roof. It brings together neurology, nutrition, urology and ophthalmology services, alongside diagnostic and rehabilitation support, aiming to ensure early intervention and comprehensive treatment.

Medical staff at the centre are predominantly Bahraini consultants, supported by specialised nursing teams who guide patients through diagnosis, treatment and long-term care.



A key highlight of the event was an art display by MS patients themselves. Their paintings reflected personal journeys of patience, resilience and determination, offering visitors a powerful reminder that the condition does not diminish creativity or ambition.

Doctors attending the event also provided health guidance, stressing the importance of lifestyle management for people living with MS. They highlighted suitable physical activity to support balance and strength, alongside tailored exercise plans based on each patient's condition.

Nutrition advice was also shared, with recommendations for foods such as fish, walnuts, fruits, vegetables and whole grains, while advising moderation in processed foods, fried meals, sugary drinks, refined

carbohydrates and high-fat or high-salt diets.

The Bahrain Multiple Sclerosis Patients Society said its goal is to help patients lead as normal a life as possible, through psychological and social support, awareness programmes and access to reliable medical information.

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“People living with MS are not defined by the disease, but by their roles as artists, family members and active contributors to society.”

— ORGANISERS

Moves to Let Children Meet Separated Parents in Malls and Play Areas

TDI | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to widen where children can meet a separated parent has been recommended for approval by Parliament's Services Committee, opening the way for visits in shopping malls, family cafés, play areas and other child-friendly sites.

The amended proposal, tied to Article 139 of Bahrain's Family Law, seeks to move some visits away from closed or formal spaces and into settings closer to ordinary family outings.

It was submitted by MPs Basema Mubarak, Ahmed Al Salloom, Lulwa Al Rumaihi, Jalal Kadhem and Eman Shuwaiter.

The committee said it had agreed revised wording with the MPs behind the proposal, including a change to the number of the related article in the Family Law.

The proposal says a wider choice of venues would give children a calmer setting when meeting a parent who does not have custody, while keeping the visit rooted in the child's welfare.

Its explanatory note says the change is based on the best interests of the child and falls within Bahrain's Family Law, Law No. 19 of 2017, which governs visitation rights.

It argues that visits in



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“The child's psychological wellbeing must remain the top priority in all visitation decisions.”

BASEMA MUBARAK, MP

closed or formal surroundings can raise anxiety and leave the child linking the meeting to court rows or family breakdown.

Shopping malls, play areas and family cafés, the MPs said, can give children a greater sense of ease and belonging during contact with the visiting parent.

The proposal also says public venues can help build a healthier bond between the child and the visiting parent by allowing more natural contact, away from the strain between separated parents.

- Proposal allows child visits in malls and family-friendly venues.
- Amendment linked to Bahrain's Family Law.
- Focus on children's emotional wellbeing.
- MPs say formal centres may increase stress.
- Plan encourages natural parent-child interaction.
- Public venues seen as safer and more comfortable.
- Initiative aims to strengthen family bonds after divorce.

It adds that the effects of divorce on children can be eased when they are still able to enjoy ordinary social and leisure activities like their peers.

The MPs said children's needs differ by age, making it useful to offer a wider range of places suited to each child's stage of growth.

Shura Council chairman praises Bahrain's envoy to Jordan

Shura Council Chairman Ali bin Saleh Al Saleh commended the efforts of Bahrain's ambassador to Jordan, Shaikh Khalifa bin Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, for his role in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Chairman highlighted the ambassador's diplomatic work in supporting and deepening what he described as the longstanding fraternal ties between Bahrain and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

He said Bahraini-Jordanian relations continue to develop steadily across various fields,



supported by the leadership of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and King Abdullah II of Jordan.

The remarks were made during a reception for the ambassador at the Shura Council headquarters on Monday.

Scrap Yard Relocation Deadline Extended

Southern Municipality grants businesses until July 31 to move to Hafeera site

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Hasan Barakat

Businesses operating in the Al Mazra'a scrap yard have been granted additional time to relocate after the Southern Municipality extended the deadline to July 31, 2026.

The decision follows directives from the ministerial committee for development projects and infrastructure, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, to support a smoother transition to the new site in Hafeera.

Officials said the extension is intended to reduce pressure on businesses and ensure commercial and service activities continue without disruption during the relocation process.

The municipality confirmed that the new site in Block 959 has been prepared in coordina-



tion with relevant government authorities to meet planning and technical requirements.

Authorities said the first phase of the project aims to better organise scrap-related activities, improve safety standards and provide a more suita-

ble working environment for operators.

The new facility is also expected to enhance service efficiency, support long-term sustainability in the sector and allow room for future expansion.

Bangladesh's stories come alive in Bahrain art showcase

● **Jamal Ahmed: Renowned Bangladeshi artist and Ekushey Padak awardee, known for works inspired by nature, rivers, and everyday life.**

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Hasan Barakat

A burst of colour, texture and human expression is drawing visitors into the heart of Bangladesh without ever leaving Bahrain.

At the Arts Centre, a new exhibition offers more than paintings on walls. It presents a lived experience, where art becomes a bridge between cultures and a window into the rhythms of life in Dhaka.

Titled “From the Heart to the Extremities: A Journey Through the Kaleidoscope,” the exhibition was launched by the Bahrain



The Ambassador and visiting artists tour the exhibition, showcasing a diverse range of contemporary works including paintings, textiles, and installations.

Authority for Culture and Antiquities in collaboration with the Embassy of Bangladesh and was attended by diplomats, artists and cultural figures.

Through bold colours and layered compositions, the works transform Dhaka into more than a city turning it into a living narrative filled with memory, movement and human stories.

Each piece offers a different lens, capturing fragments of everyday life, from nature and urban spaces to personal identity and shared cultural memory.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Bahrain Mohammed Sarwar said the exhibition reflects ongoing efforts to deepen cultural exchange between the two countries.

He described art as a powerful form of diplomacy, capable of crossing borders where language cannot, creating spaces for dialogue and understanding between people.

The exhibition brings together leading contemporary artists, each presenting a distinct artistic voice.