

# Muharraq Nights Festival presents cultural and interactive tours



Participants get to observe and document Muharraq’s architectural and cultural characteristics

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The fourth edition of the Muharraq Nights Festival presents a diverse programme of cultural and interactive tours that introduce visitors to the city’s landmarks, architectural identity, and historical components, while highlighting the heritage of Muharraq. The tours offer a curated range of experiences organised within an integrated cultural route, combining engagement with local heritage and contemporary initiatives in arts, culture, and knowledge, and enabling audiences to gain a deeper understanding of the city’s urban and cultural development. The programme begins with a series of art-focused tours

exploring the history of Muharraq through sketching, led by architects Judy Abi Rustom and Dina Abdullah. **Multiple stations** Participants move between multiple stations across three different routes to observe and document the city’s architectural and cultural characteristics. The programme also includes the photography tour “Grain & Glow: Analogue Photography in Muharraq Nights” with artist Dania Radhi, which starts at Qal’at Bu Mahir, passes through the waterfront promenade and traditional alleys, and concludes at Siyadi complex, documenting Muharraq’s nocturnal scenes on film.

# Northern Governorate hosts housing lecture

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The Northern Governorate, in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and the Housing Bank, held an introductory training lecture aimed at boosting the capabilities of its employees to hold awareness about various housing programmes, financing options, and services. This initiative is designed to equip them with the knowledge needed to better assist

citizens in selecting the most suitable housing options for their needs. Northern Governor, Hassan Al Madani, underscored the significance of this training, stating that raising awareness among governorate employees about the Ministry of Housing’s offerings is crucial. He emphasised that this knowledge will empower them to effectively support citizens in navigating their housing choices.

# A shared canvas

Bahraini and Indian communities celebrate art and culture

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The Abdelrahman Kanoo Cultural Center came alive as Bahrain and India came together for ‘A Journey Through Colors and Melodies’, a collaborative exhibition of visual arts and music celebrating the deep-rooted cultural ties between the two nations. The event, held on Sunday, December 7, 2025, was inaugurated by Mr. Ali Abdullah Khalifa, Founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Abdelrahman Kanoo Cultural Center, and other dignitaries in the presence of artists, culture enthusiasts, and community members. Bringing together creativity from both sides, the exhibition featured works by prominent Bahraini and Indian artists, including renowned paper artist Atamjeet Singh Bawa, Ali Y. Ahmadi, Sudeep Sudhir Deshpande, and several others.

## Visual dialogue

Their contributions formed a dynamic visual dialogue that highlighted cultural parallels, shared heritage, and evolving artistic identities. A notable artwork by Sudeep Sudhir Deshpande explored the transformation of Manama, blending nostalgic references to the old city with contemporary depictions of its modern landscape, portraying Bahrain as a sailing ship, symbolizing the nation’s journey from its historical roots to its present-day growth. Another artwork delved into Bahrain’s pearling heritage, depicting divers searching for pearls while highlighting the emotional weight of the trade.

## Nation’s past

The piece emphasized the uncertainty divers faced each time they entered the sea, offering a poignant glimpse into this defining part of the nation’s past. Innovation stood out in a paper-based artwork by Atamjeet



The event features brilliant works by prominent Bahraini and Indian artists



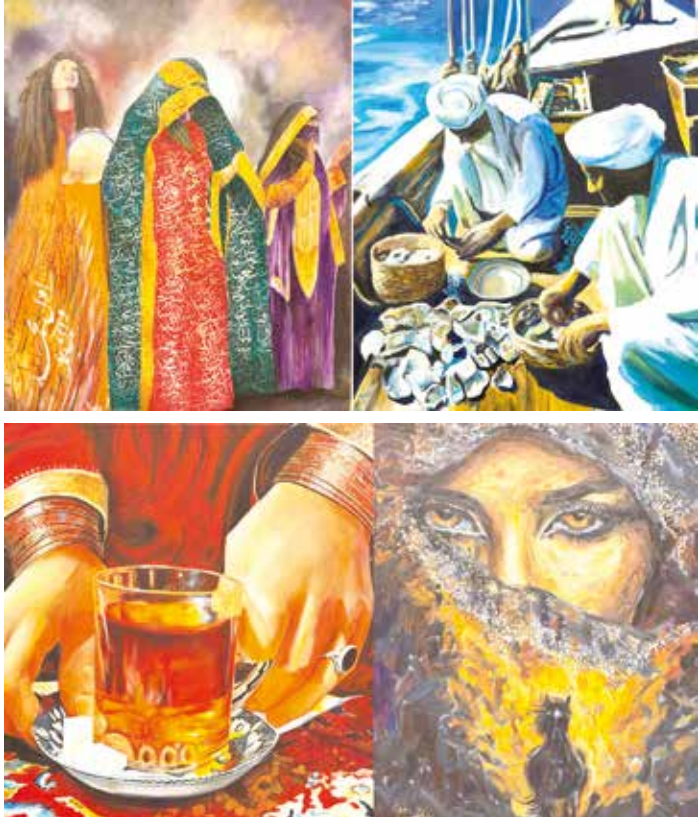
“This exhibition is a celebration of friendship, connection, and the beauty that emerges when two cultures share space, traditions, and creativity.”

— ORGANIZING TEAM



Guests enjoyed an atmosphere that perfectly captured the spirit of the event, a true journey through colors, melodies, and cultural harmony.

Singh Bawa, inspired by the perspective of an astronaut viewing Bahrain from space. Bawa traced the island’s outline from Google Maps and reconstructed it through meticulous layered paper cutting, three layers symbolizing the underwater base and sixteen rising



above, resulting in a futuristic yet grounded interpretation of Bahrain. **Passion** Adding to the diversity of the showcase, Ali Ahmadi presented works that reflected his passion for experimentation and Arabic calligraphy, blending traditional script with contemporary artistic expression and reinforcing the exhibition’s theme of bridging

ing heritage and modernity. Organisers reflected on the deep bonds between Bahrain and its longstanding Indian community. “This exhibition is designed to give Bahrainis an authentic glimpse into Indian art, and to offer the Indian community a heartfelt encounter with Bahraini culture,” the organizing team told The Daily Tribune.

# UNDP holds lecture on SDGs and global challenges

● Enhancing youth awareness on important issues

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As part of efforts to enhance youth awareness of contemporary development issues, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) delivered an awareness lecture within the Young Parliamentarian Program 2025, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and global trends related to their implementation. The organization of this lecture underscores the importance of building youth capacities and enabling them to gain a deeper understanding of issues that influence public policy formulation. The lecture, presented by Her



UNDP officials with participants

Excellency Ms. Asma Shalabi, UNDP Resident Representative in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and attended by Her Excellency Ms. Fiona Walker Doyle, Deputy Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Bahrain, provided a comprehensive overview of the SDGs, analyzing their interlinkages and direct impact on various economic, social, and environmental sectors.

## Coordination and partnership

The discussion also addressed the global context of SDG implementation and the fast-changing international dynamics that require higher levels of coordination and partnership. This set the stage for showcasing visual materials that illustrated global progress and outlined proposed future path-

ways to accelerate achievement. The objectives of the lecture were further reinforced through reports and documentary films presented by the UNDP team, highlighting key current indicators of sustainable development. This allowed participants to gain a more holistic view of existing gaps and priority areas for action in the coming phase.

## Interactive discussion

This introduction paved the way for an interactive discussion with youth participants, who shared questions and perspectives on the role of the new generation in supporting development pathways and leveraging knowledge and analytical tools to design impactful initiatives. This lecture is part of a series

of specialized meetings, training workshops, and awareness sessions offered by the Young Parliamentarian Program, aimed at refining participants’ skills, strengthening their engagement with global development issues, and empowering them to contribute to the development of more effective policies that respond to future challenges.