

Weaving glorious past into Bahrain’s living heritage

Basket House preserves rich culture and tradition for present and future generations

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In the historic surroundings of Qal’at al-Bahrain, the Basket House stands as a quiet but powerful reminder of a craft that continues to shape the country’s cultural identity.

Visitors stepping inside encounter a world defined by patience, precision and generational memory.

The soft rustle of palm fronds blends with the steady movements of skilled hands as artisans transform natural fibres into baskets that carry the texture of Bahrain’s past.

The house functions as both a workspace and a cultural anchor, preserving a tradition that has travelled through families for decades and remains deeply rooted in national heritage.

Heritage

At the centre of this craft is Bahraini artisan Hassan Al Shajjar, who spoke to The Daily Tribune about the origins of his skill.

He described a childhood shaped by the presence of fathers and grandparents who practised weaving as part of daily life.

There were no formal lessons, no written instructions, only observation and gradual partici-



Bahraini artisan Hassan Al Shajjar preserves traditional items, especially the rope and classic handwoven baskets

pation. “We learned from our fathers and grandparents,” he recalled. “As children we watched how they worked, how they shaped the palm leaves, and over time we joined in until the craft became part of us.”

Al Shajjar explained that the tools used today are identical to those of earlier generations.

No machines, no modern factory equipment.

The commitment to manual work preserves the authenticity of the craft, which he said remains highly valued in Bahrain.

Requests for traditional items continue to come not only from



within the Kingdom but also from across the Gulf, especially for rope and classic handwoven baskets.

Learning

The upper floor of the Basket House expands the craft’s purpose beyond production by offering an interactive learning space for visitors.

Adults taking part often discover the unexpected complexity of weaving, gaining a deeper appreciation for the discipline behind each piece.

Children gather to paint and create, filling the space with colour and excitement, and forming



early connections to Bahrain’s artistic history.

This educational element strengthens the longevity of the tradition.

By allowing the public not only to observe but to participate, the Basket House ensures that the craft evolves while maintaining its cultural meaning.

The interaction between artisans and visitors forms a bridge between generations, aligning heritage with contemporary curiosity.

Tradition

Al Shajjar highlighted that Bahrain’s weaving tradition



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Bahrain’s cultural memory. It offers artisans a dedicated space to pursue their craft while inviting families, artists and learners to connect with the Kingdom’s history through hands-on experience.

Every woven strand captures a story of resilience, identity and skill.

In an era of rapid modernisation, the Basket House proves that heritage does not fade; it adapts, breathes and continues to shape the cultural landscape.

It brings the past into the present, ensuring that Bahrain’s living heritage remains vivid, tangible and proudly preserved.

Two arrested for publishing illegal advertisement

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The Ministry of the Interior announced that the General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security has arrested two individuals for publishing a promotional advertisement that contained unlawful actions.

The Directorate explained that, as part of its ongoing monitoring and review of content across social media platforms, it detected illegal content on one platform.

Immediate investigation and search procedures were initiated, leading to the identification and arrest of the suspects.

Legal measures are underway to refer the case to the Public Prosecution.

The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security stressed the importance of adhering to laws and regulations and exercising national and ethical responsibility when using social media platforms.

Restaurant worker jailed over stolen card EWA bills

● Fined BD1,000

Mohammed Darwish
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A worker at an Asian restaurant will serve a jail term of several years, pay a BD1,000 fine and be permanently deported after the High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld his conviction for electronic fraud linked to stolen bank cards used to pay Electricity and Water Authority bills worth BD2,453.

The court confirmed a lower

ruling that found the 40-year-old used bank cards issued by banks outside Bahrain to complete the payments, after the cards were reported stolen.

The Public Prosecution said he used another person’s electronic signature, referring to the verification code tied to the victims’ cards, for a fraudulent purpose.

Money

It said he unlawfully took money linked to a payment company that acted as the intermediary in the transaction, after entering the verification

data and obtaining the first victim’s card details.

The prosecution also said he accessed the information-technology system of a victim’s bank account without legal basis to carry out transfer operations.

The case came to light after a payment company reported suspected fraud during a settlement for EWA accounts.

Payments

The firm said bills had been paid using bank cards issued in an Asian country, totalling BD2,453, and that the payments were made using the card PIN

Life sentence upheld for drug trafficker

● Selling drugs from her flat

Mohammed Darwish
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A Bahraini woman has had a life sentence upheld after the High Criminal Court of Appeal found she returned to drug dealing soon after leaving the Reformation and Rehabilitation Centre in 2024, using her flat to receive users and sell narcotics to customers inside the home or by throwing wrapped packages from a window.

The appeal court also upheld one-year jail terms for six appellants in the same case.

The High Criminal Court had previously sentenced the woman, in her thirties, to life in prison and fined her BD5,000.

It also jailed nine men convicted of drug use for a year each and fined each of them BD1,000.

The court ordered the confiscation of seized items.

The case began after the Anti-Narcotics Directorate received information that the woman was dealing again following her release. Investigations and confidential sources supported the claims.

BAB celebrates International Banks Day to honour Almoayyed, Al Saudi legacy

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The Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB) held a ceremony marking International Banks Day, celebrated annually on December 4.

The event was attended by H.E. Khalid Humaidan, Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain, along with chief executives,



Central Bank of Bahrain, H.E. Khalid Humaidan, with chief executives, officials, and decision-makers from the Kingdom’s financial and banking sector

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On this occasion, Mr. Yasser Alsharifi, Chairman of BAB, emphasized that International Banks Day has become a significant annual milestone for showcasing the achievements of Bahrain’s financial and banking sector.