

# A Library Where Memories Are Still Read

Books since 1902 still breathe inside Salah's library

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

A book printed in 1902 still rests quietly on a shelf in Isa Town, waiting to be opened. Not preserved behind glass or locked away, it remains within reach, offering a simple reminder that stories do not fade, but endure.

Inside Salah's Traditional Library, time appears to slow. The scent of aged paper, the soft rustle of turning pages, and the calm atmosphere invite visitors to pause and reflect. It is a place where books carry memory, not just words.

Founded in 1996 by Salah Hussein, the library began as a modest table in a second-hand market. Over the years, it has grown into a unique cultural space known for its collection of used and rare titles, many of which are no longer in print. Each book tells more than one story, often bearing marks of previous readers, handwritten notes, folded pages, and the passage of time.

**Sharing**

"I didn't know how to sell books at the beginning," Salah recalls. "But people kept coming back. That's when I realised this



A rare copy of Qasr Al Khof, first published in 1957, is preserved as part of a timeless collection.



An old English book, Daisy Jack, is among the rare titles available at the library



Citizens are flocking to the library to spend their time surrounded by books, turning quiet reading into a shared daily habit.

place is not just for selling, it's for sharing."

Visitors often find themselves drawn to nostalgic pieces, including old editions of Majid

Magazine, which evoke memories of childhood reading and imagination. For many, stepping into the library feels less like visiting a shop and more like

**“I didn't know how to sell books at the beginning”**  
- SALAH HUSSEIN



**In a quiet corner of Isa Town, a book from 1902 is not just history—it continues to live in the present.**

remain accessible. Here, the value of a book lies not in its age or condition, but in the stories it carries.

In a quiet corner of Isa Town, a book printed more than a century ago is not just a piece of history, it continues to be part of everyday life.

revisiting the past.

The space attracts a diverse crowd, including students, parents, writers, and academics. Without a digital catalogue, browsing becomes a personal journey, allowing visitors to ex-

plore freely and rediscover forgotten interests.

**Belief**

Thousands of affordable books line the shelves, reflecting a belief that knowledge should

## Shura Council Considers Key Legal Reforms Today

● Two draft laws under review

● Replacing terms like “work” with “rehabilitation and training”

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama



Shura Council

The Shura Council will gather for its 26th meeting of the fourth session in the sixth legislative term. Lawmakers will review important committee reports shaping Bahrain's legislative and reform direction.

On the agenda are two draft laws prepared by the Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee. The first proposes amendments to the Reform and Rehabilitation Institution Law issued under Law No. 18 of 2014, while the second focuses on changes to the Penal Code under Decree-Law No. 15 of 1976. Both were submitted through recent royal decrees in 2025.

The discussions are based on observations from the International Labour Organisation, which raised concerns about wording in national legislation that could be interpreted as

allowing compulsory labour alongside prison sentences. In response, the proposed amendments aim to clarify intent and align legal language with international standards.

**Approval**

The committee has recommended approval of both drafts, highlighting Bahrain's ongoing progress in developing a modern reform and rehabilitation system. It noted that reformation centres in the country are not only correctional facilities but also structured environments offering education, vocational training, healthcare, and social support to help inmates reintegrate into society.

Lawmakers emphasized that Bahrain's penal approach has increasingly shifted toward restorative justice, alternative sen-

tencing, and rehabilitation-focused policies. This includes initiatives such as open prisons, which allow gradual reintegration into the community and aim to reduce repeat offences.

The first draft law would replace terms such as “work” with “rehabilitation and training,” and “wage” with “reward,” reinforcing the idea that inmate duties center on skill-building rather than labour. The second draft law similarly replaces prison work requirements with structured rehabilitation programmes, further strengthening the shift toward reform-oriented justice.

The committee said these changes would remove any ambiguity, unify legal terminology, and ensure consistency across legislation while reflecting Bahrain's evolving correctional philosophy.

## Kuwait Health Centre Expansion Due by June After 20,040 Referrals

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The expansion of Kuwait Health Centre in Karzakan is set to be fully operational by the end of June 2026, the Health Ministry has confirmed, following more than 20,000 patient referrals from the facility last year.

In a written response to MP Hanan Fardan, the ministry said 20,040 cases were referred



Kuwait Health Centre in Karzakan

in 2025 from the centre to Sal-

maniya Medical Complex and King Hamad University Hos-

specialist cases.

The ministry said the upgrade works are being carried out in phases.

## Abu Subh Coast Set for Major Redevelopment Project

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

Residents of Abu Subh are set to see long-awaited improvements to their coastline after a BD 1.2 million development contract was signed with a Bahraini company through a competitive tender process.

The project, confirmed by Northern Municipal Council member Basim Abudrees, aims to transform the area into a modern public space with safer and more accessible facilities



Officials from the Northern Municipality visited the shoreline to assess current conditions.

for families.

“We've been asking for this for more than five years,” said resident Um Khalid. “I just

hope this time it actually happens.”

The announcement followed a site visit by officials.