

BTEA prepares to launch Hawa Al Manama

● Celebrate Bahrain season activity

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) is finalising preparations to launch Hawa Al Manama, taking place from December 25, 2025, to January 15, 2026, as part of the Celebrate Bahrain season.

The event will offer interactive experiences inspired by Bahrain's cultural and economic transformation between the 1960s and 1990s.

Sara Ahmed Buhejji, Chief Executive Officer of BTEA, said the event's location in the old souq carries particular significance, reflecting the historical importance of Manama and the role it played in shaping the economic and social identity of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

She noted that the old souq remains one of Bahrain's most important urban landmarks, holding a special place in the memories of Bahrainis and visitors from neighbouring GCC countries with whom Bahrain shares historical and cultural ties.

Buhejji added that showcasing the capital's cultural and architectural heritage adds diversity to the tourism experiences available in the Kingdom, in line with the objectives of the Tourism Strategy 2022-2026.

Hawa Al Manama will feature cultural and heritage activities designed to recreate authentic settings

Food fraud

Restaurant owner jailed for selling expired foodstuffs and running unlicensed home kitchen

● Fined BD7,200

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A restaurant owner has been jailed for three years and fined BD7,200 after the Lower Criminal Court found she had been preparing and selling food with expired ingredients and running an unlicensed kitchen from her home, according to the Public Prosecution.

The court also ordered the confiscation of all seized items that breached approved technical rules or had no clear source.

Prosecutors said the defendant was convicted of trading in expired foodstuffs and goods that did not meet approved standards, and neglecting the cleanliness and maintenance of her outlet.

Certificate

She also displayed products of unknown origin and carried out activities not listed on her health registration certificate.

In addition, the defendant was found guilty of running a business without the required licences from the competent authorities.

The case began when the Public Prosecution received a report from an employee at the restaurant she owns.

He told prosecutors she was



Image used for illustrative purposes only



The accused was preparing the restaurant's food in her house without a licence, storing food products in an unlicensed storeroom and using expired ingredients in meals sold to customers.

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licensed storeroom and using expired ingredients in meals sold to customers.

The Public Prosecution opened an inquiry, took the whistle-blower's statement and asked the police to check his claims.

Warrant

Police reports confirmed the account, after which prosecutors obtained a warrant to search the defendant's home.

During the search, officers seized quantities of expired and mouldy food, other items of unknown origin and tools and equipment used to prepare food without a licence.

Once the inquiry was complete and the evidence assessed, the Public Prosecution referred the case to the competent court, which issued the prison term, fine and confiscation order.

Experience crafting tradition at Heritage Village in Askar



Banoosh



Mohamed Al Bannai, a master boat maker

● More than 20 years keeping Qallaf craft tradition alive

● Builds iconic Bahraini boats

● Preserving kingdom maritime heritage

Ghadeer Alkumaish
TDT | Manama

Heritage Village in Askar is now open from 4th to 28th December, welcoming visitors to experience authentic Bahraini traditions, historic architecture, handmade crafts, and local cuisine.

The Daily Tribune recently visited to meet Mohamed Al Bannai, a master boat maker.

Mohamed began making wooden ships as a hobby before turning it into his profession, practicing this craft for more than 20 years.

He works as a "Qallaf," the traditional term for a craftsman who builds wooden boats.

Journey

He began his professional journey in 2005 and specializes in creating several types of boat, each with distinct designs and purposes even if they may appear similar at first glance.

For instance, the Banoosh has a straight bow, while the Sanbouk features a sharply curved bow at the lower front; both are still used for fishing today.

The Batteel was historically

“Each boat has its own story and purpose. Even if they look similar, every detail is carefully designed for its specific function. This is what makes our craft unique.”

- MOHAMED AL BANNAI

used for warfare, and the large Boom served long-distance travel and for transporting goods across the Gulf, Africa, and India before the era of airplanes and bridges.

The Jalboot, with its right-angle design, is used for diving and transporting cargo.

The Trading Boom, the largest of these boats, is a tall, slender boat designed for long-distance maritime trade, reaching ports in India, Yemen, and East Africa.

In contrast, the Driving Boom is smaller and lower in height.

Mohamed explained, "Each boat has its own story and purpose. Even if they look similar, every detail is carefully designed for its specific function. This is what makes our craft unique."

Cost

One reason for the high cost of these boats is the use of teak wood, which is naturally oily, water-resistant, and imported from India.

However, it has become rare and expensive due to export restrictions.

Preserved animal curiosities captivate crowd at AOU event

● Part of National Day celebration

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

A booth displaying preserved animals stunned visitors at the Arab Open University's National Day celebration, instantly becoming the event's most magnetic and debated attraction.

What initially appeared to be a modest display revealed itself to be an unexpectedly captivating collection of carefully preserved creatures and anatomical pieces rarely seen outside specialised museums.

Encased butterflies shimmered under the light, colourful beetles appeared almost sculptural in their detail, and a gazelle skull crowned with its natural horns drew repeated gasps from onlookers.

Nearby lay a preserved peacock leg, textured and striking, alongside camel teeth arranged like archaeological findings from Bahrain's distant past.

The booth invited both curiosity and contemplation, prompting visitors to linger far longer than they anticipated,



Pottery-making and natural art displays delight visitors

fascinated by the delicate balance between art, science and nature embodied in each item.

Celebration

The wider event unfolded across the university grounds with an atmosphere that blended heritage and joyful festivity.

A Bahraini folk band set the rhythm with nostalgic melodies that carried the spirit of the kingdom's cultural past, filling the venue with familiar echoes of tradition.

Food stalls offered an impressive range of experiences, from Bahraini Kebab to pasta, burgers and popular fast dishes.

Cafes poured matcha, kar-

ak and specialty brews, while a nostalgic corner revived the charm of old Bahraini snacks once found in neighbourhood groceries but now difficult to come find.

Market

A vibrant marketplace extended across the campus, showcasing anime stickers, accessories, clothing, shawls, hats and National Day apparel in red and white. Handmade items crafted from wool and beads added depth to the scene.

Traditional artisans demonstrated pottery making, palm-leaf basket weaving and the intricate shaping of wooden



dolls, offering visitors an up close encounter with Bahrain's heritage crafts.

Festivities

Competitions, games and soft-toy prizes kept the energy high as families, children and guests joined the celebration.

The open door spirit transformed the campus into a community festival, where students laughed, parents explored and children played freely, weaving together a vivid National Day atmosphere.

The event reflected Bahrain's enduring pride in its cultural identity, celebrating unity, creativity and tradition in a lively, inclusive setting.

Advancing digital ecosystem



His Excellency Mohammed Ali Al Qaed, Chief Executive of the Information and eGovernment Authority, met with Ahmed bin Mohammed Alsuwaiyan, Governor of Saudi Arabia's Digital Government Authority (DGA), on the sidelines of Al Qaed's participation in the 13th meeting of the Permanent Committee for Statistical Work, held in Saudi Arabia. Al Qaed highlighted the importance of strengthening Gulf cooperation in digital transformation and the development of shared technological infrastructure across the GCC. He noted the advanced levels achieved by the region's digital ecosystem and its progress in adopting modern technologies and innovative solutions to enhance the quality of government service for citizens.