

Fire engulfs restaurant in Arad, no injuries reported



TDT | Manama

A fierce fire broke out at a restaurant inside a building in the Arad area, causing extensive damage but no injuries, authorities said. The Ministry of Interior said Civil Defence teams were dispatched immediately after the incident was reported. Fire-

fighters carried out evacuation procedures, brought the blaze under control and conducted cooling operations to prevent it from reigniting. The fire sent thick black smoke billowing into the sky and damaged a neighbouring building as well as several parked vehicles. The ministry did not identify the site, but local media reports

said the blaze struck the mini heritage village in Arad. Eyewitnesses described flames engulfing parts of the complex as smoke spread across the area, with strong winds helping the fire spread rapidly. Images released by the Police Media Centre showed Civil Defence crews battling towering flames as thick black smoke rose

high above the site, partially obscuring nearby buildings. Fire engines were positioned along the roadside while firefighters in protective gear worked at close range, directing powerful water jets at the burning structure. The photographs revealed extensive destruction, with sections of the building reduced to charred frames and

collapsed walls. Burnt debris, twisted metal and scorched wooden beams were scattered across the ground, highlighting the intensity of the blaze. Hoses snaked across wet road surfaces as crews continued cooling operations amid lingering smoke. Other images showed firefighters assessing the damage after the flames were brought

under control, while several onlookers stood at a distance watching the operation unfold. Parked vehicles near the site appeared damaged, underscoring the fire's impact on the surrounding area. Authorities confirmed that no one was injured and said an investigation is under way to determine the cause of the fire.

Huge crowd gathers for ISB annual Cultural Fair as celebrations begin on a high note

Manama

The Indian School came alive with colour, music, and celebration as it kicked off its Annual Cultural Fair, presented by Star Vision Events on Thursday, January 15, 2026, marking a major highlight of its Platinum Jubilee celebrations. H.E Osama Bin Saleh Al Alawi, Minister of Social Development was the chief guest. In his speech the minister said The Indian School marks a significant milestone in fostering a rich educational and cultural environment while shaping brighter futures. Rooted in shared values and the spirit of social harmony, the school reflects the deep ties of the vibrant Indian community with Bahrain. Through dedication and meaningful contributions to society, the ISB stands as a model institution, inspiring future generations, the minister said.

Zeyad Adel Darwish, Undersecretary, Ministry of Social Development, Pambavasan Nair, Managing Director, Amad Baeed Electrical WLL; Ahmed Al Hayki, Former Assistant Undersecretary, Ministry of La-



bour; Mishal Khalid Ahmed, Director, Social Development Minister's Office; Major Khulood Yahya Ebrahim, Chief of Traffic Awareness Division, Traffic Directorate; First Lieutenant Shaikha Ahood Abdulla Ahmed Al Khalifa, Traffic Directorate; Sara Mohammed Al Shaikh, Head, Private Educational Institutions Support Group; Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese, Hon. Chairman, ISB; V. Rajapandian, Hon. Secretary, ISB; V. R. Palaniswamy, Principal; R. Ramesh, ISB Fair General Convener; Sethuraj Kadakkal, Chairman, Star Vision Events; Dr. Mohammed Faizal, Hon. Vice-Chairman & Hon. Member - Sports; Ranjini Mohan, Hon. Assistant Secretary & Hon. Member - Academics; Bonny Joseph, Hon. Member - Finance & IT; Mithun Mohan, Hon. Member - Projects & Maintenance; Mohammad Nayaz Ullah, Hon. Member - Transport; Pamela Xavier, Principal, Junior Wing; G. Satheesh, Vice-Principal, Senior School & Academic Administration; Priya Laji, Vice-Principal, Junior Wing; Parvathi Devadas, Staff

Representative; Prince S. Natarajan, General Convener, Platinum Jubilee; Mohammed Husain Malim, Advisor, Fair Committee; Saji Antony, Former Secretary; Ashraf Kattilpeadika, Fair Coordinator, also were in attendance. Addressing the gathering, ISB Chairman Adv. Binu Mannil Varughese stated that the Platinum Jubilee celebrations mark seventy-five years of the ISB's steadfast commitment to academic excellence, cultural harmony, and social responsibility. He expressed gratitude to the Bahrain leadership, parents, and community for their enduring support in shaping generations of responsible global citizens. Prominent businessman and philanthropist Pambavasan Nair, a former ISB parent and long-time well-wisher of the school, was felicitated during the ceremony. ISB Secretary V. Rajapandian gave vote of thanks. Students enthralled the audience with vibrant cultural performances, showcasing the rich diversity and talent nurtured at the school. Presented by Star

Vision Events, the two-day extravaganza continues on Friday and promises to be the biggest cultural fair in the school's 75-year history. Adding star power to the celebrations was a stellar musical line-up. The evening featured a live concert by acclaimed musician and composer Stephen Devassy and his team, known for their innovative musical fusion and electrifying performances. On Friday, the festivities continue with student cultural programmes, followed by a high-energy musical night led by popular playback singer Rupali Jagga, accompanied by Abhishek Soni and their ensemble. The Annual Cultural Fair stands as a signature event of the ISB's Platinum Jubilee Year 2025, symbolising 75 years of educational excellence, cultural vibrancy, and community bonding in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The excitement is further amplified by an attractive raffle draw, with the first prize being a brand-new MG ZS silver car sponsored by Zayani Motors. Raffle draw will take place on-



line on January 26, as per the guidelines of the ministry. Entry to the ISB Mega Fair is priced at BD 2 per ticket.