

# Innovation fest Unbound returns to the Kingdom

Anchor event of StartUp Bahrain Week will be attended by over 75 speakers

● **Event features innovative topics including building a sustainable tech ecosystem, the growing FinTech industry, artificial intelligence, sustainability, venture capital and blockchain.**

TDT | Manama

World-renowned innovation festival Unbound will return to Bahrain on March 6 and 7 to showcase some of the most inventive brands, start-ups, and government initiatives seen in Bahrain and across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Expecting to double in size from last year, Unbound Bahrain moves to a new venue, Bahrain National Theatre for the 2019

edition.

The MENA region's largest and most exciting innovation festival, Unbound Bahrain is the anchor event of "StartUp Bahrain Week" held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, Chairman of the Economic Development Board (EDB) in association with the EDB and supported by Tamkeen (The Labour Fund) as a strategic partner and startup community in

Bahrain.

The festival celebrates the Kingdom's commitment to creating a digital economy and fuelling a digital future for the wider MENA region.

The festival will host over 75 speakers and more than 3,000 local, regional and international delegates, including inspiring entrepreneurs sharing their experiences on starting and growing a business venture.

Daniel Seal, Founder and CEO at Unbound, said: "Unbound is delighted to be returning to the MENA region. This year's event promises to be the biggest yet, with speakers from across the globe discussing the very latest in innovation. With startup battles, awards and showcases, Unbound Bahrain provides startups with unique opportunities to connect with investors and help make ideas become a reality. In a very short space of time, Unbound has become the go-to platform for MENA

innovators to embrace opportunities in Bahrain and the wider region."

The Middle East is embracing digital disruption with technology at the heart of economic diversification. As Governments look to increasingly partner with the private sector to help drive growth and efficiencies, Unbound Bahrain will showcase the latest innovative products and services being developed by startups from around the world.

Pakiza Abdulrahman, Manager of Business Development



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DANIEL SEAL

Startups at the Bahrain Economic Development Board, said: "The EDB is committed to fostering a supportive environment for start-ups and has found a perfect partner in Unbound to showcase the benefits of doing business in Bahrain and the Middle East. Unbound comes with an immense experience of running this international event in London, Miami and Singapore, and we are thrilled to host them for a second year to showcase GCC and MENA's startup trends.

"As digital disruption changes the face of the modern economy, we must do all we can to enable startups and the next generation of innovative technologies. Getting the right balance of soft infrastructure; access to funding; and mentorship in place is crucial to our success and Unbound Bahrain will be the ideal platform to learn more about the technological trends shaping our society."

## Expat dies after suicide attempt



The deceased Sachin

● **Sources said he swallowed large number of pills in bid to end his life.**

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A 28-year-old expatriate passed away at Salmaniya Medical Complex yesterday after being admitted there following a suicide attempt two days ago.

The deceased, Sachin, hailing from the Indian state of Kerala had arrived in the Kingdom only a month ago to work as a salesman.

Sources said he swallowed large number of pills in bid to end his life.

Social workers and company officials are in efforts to fly back the body home, it is learnt.

## Prominent neurosurgeon to revisit RBH



Dr Sabah

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Royal Bahrain Hospital announced that Dr Sabah Al Rashed, a dedicated neurosurgeon will be revisiting the hospital for consultations today.

Dr Sabah is a highly qualified and well-experienced consultant neurosurgeon who is skilled in Clinical research and Adult and Paediatric Neurosurgery conditions, the hospital said.

Dr Sabah will be available for consultation in all aspects of neurosurgery including brain and spine tumours, peripheral nerve surgeries, head trauma and microscopic and endoscopic surgeries, it added.

"Dr Sabah has several publications in pronounced international journals and is currently leading the research and education department in a regional neurosurgery facility as modern clinical approach nowadays is evidence-based which will be delivered as up to date knowledge and experience."

To book appointment, call 17246800 or book online on [www.royalbahrainhospital.com](http://www.royalbahrainhospital.com). Royal Bahrain Hospital Mobile App can be downloaded to book appointments and more on iOS and Android devices.

## Kidnappers' jail term upheld

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The High Criminal Appeals Court has upheld the sentences issued against 10 men convicted of kidnapping a man and forcing him to confess that he was a police informer.

The defendants are said to have been abducted from Buri village.

They allegedly pushed him inside their car after telling him that they were undercover agents.

"They took me to a remote farm, and they mercilessly attacked me after they handcuffed me with a zip tie.

"The tenth defendant used a phone to record my voice as I was forced to say that I was a police informer," the victim

“The tenth defendant used a phone to record my voice as I was forced to say that I was a police informer.”

VICTIM

told prosecutors.

The incident happened on September 4, 2017, and the defendants were put on trial over accusations of kidnapping and beating a man as well as disguising as police officers.

The first three defendants were earlier sentenced to five years behind bars each, while the remaining eight accused were handed down three years in prison each.

## Rare diseases awareness campaign launched

Manama

For the seventh consecutive year, Al Jawhara Centre for Molecular Medicine, affiliated to the Arabian Gulf University (AGU), is launching a national awareness campaign on rare diseases.

This is in conjunction with World Rare Disease Day to be observed on February 28 under the slogan 'Show you are, show you care'.

Diseases are classified as rare

whenever they affect less than one in every 2,000 or more people. There are 100 million individuals in the world affected with a rare disease and nearly 15 million in the Arab world. Most rare diseases are genetic, and accompany the patient for a lifetime, although the effects of some may only manifest at an older age.

Dr Cristina Skrypnik, Medical Genetics Consultant at Al Jawhara Centre and Head of the Organising Committee said: "All activities of this year campaign are dedicated to increase the awareness about rare diseases patients, their need for medical

and social support, help and tolerance. We aim to increase the education about rare disorders and to create a solid bridge in between the medical, academic and social community."

Dr Skrypnik thanked AGU for the great continues support of this awareness campaign and is looking forward to develop a national plan for rare disorders in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

A special event dedicated for families and patients will be held in Aljawhara centre on 27 February, aiming to share their experiences and provide support.

A movie and lectures about rare disorders impacts into daily life of the society will be presented in main universities in Bahrain.

A rare disorders day booth will be active on 28 of February during the second Pearl Paediatric Conference held in Bahrain and organised by Arabian Gulf University.

A flyer and informative leaflets about inheritance types and genetic testing will be distributed in all events venues.



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DR SKRYPNYK



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## Asian 'drugged people in attempt to rob them'

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An Asian man attempted to drug travellers in an effort to steal their belongings, it was revealed.

According to a statement issued by the Bahrain National Airport Police Station, the accused, who visited the Kingdom for transit, drugged hot drinks, which he offered to the travellers at the airport.

His crime came to light after several travellers at the airport were found in an unconscious state.

The Police Station chief said in the statement that the Asian man was arrested later and was found to be in possession of sleeping pills and drugs.

He will be questioned by the Public Prosecution before facing a trial, the statement concluded.

## VAT tourist refund scheme



The Assistant Undersecretary of Development and Policy of Public Revenues, Rana Faqihi, yesterday signed a contract with the international payment specialists Planet Payment, at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy. The contract has been signed to begin work on the tourist refund scheme for VAT paid by tourists during their stay in the Kingdom. Planet Payment has been chosen to oversee Bahrain's VAT tourist refund scheme based on their knowledge and expertise in the field of international payment solutions. Planet has been operating for 30 years in 58 different countries regionally and worldwide, and currently operate the UAE's VAT tourist refund scheme.