

Art Legacy Struck

Juffair Landmark Sustains Severe Losses to Halls and Historic Collections from Iranian Attacks

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

A cornerstone of the Kingdom's cultural heritage sustained significant damage following an Iranian attack that struck the Bahrain Contemporary Art Association in Juffair. The strike directly impacted the institution's artistic environment, causing extensive structural damage to several exhibition halls, ceilings, and internal facilities.

Beyond the architectural destruction, officials report that several exhibited artworks were damaged or ruined. These pieces hold immense cultural and historical value, as they document decades of Bahrain's national art movement. The disruption paralyzed several creative spaces, raising deep concerns among the association's 70-plus members, which include prominent painters, calligraphers, and ceramists.

Founded in 1970, the Bahrain Contemporary Art Association is the country's first official institution dedicated to visual arts. Established by a group of pioneering artists, it held its first milestone exhibition in May 1971. The association has long been recognized



Artworks damaged due to an Iranian attack

for its contributions to the national landscape, most notably in 1984 when its members were honored by the late HRH Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa. Among those pioneers was the late Abdulkarim Al Orayed, a former chairman who received the Bahrain Encouragement Award for his role in elevating Bahraini art on the global stage.

Reports from inside the Juffair facility indicate that the upper halls and dedicated workshops were the most severely affected. Urgent calls now demand a

comprehensive damage assessment and immediate restoration measures to save the remaining collections. For the local community, the building is more than just a gallery; its traditional architectural character serves as a vital meeting point for the exchange of expertise and creative expression.

Today, the association faces its greatest challenge: restoring its physical facilities while preserving its vast artistic legacy. As the hub of the visual arts movement in Bahrain, the focus remains on ensuring that this vital institution can continue to support and inspire future generations of Bahraini artists despite the recent devastation.



Proposal to establish the Bahrain Contemporary Art Association, August 1970.

Replace Foreign Workers with Bahrainis

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

An urgent parliamentary proposal has called for a temporary government-backed scheme to support the replacement of foreign workers with Bahraini nationals in roles that can be localised.

The proposal, submitted by MP Dr Munir Seroor, urges the Labour Ministry, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) and Tamkeen to launch a targeted support programme linked directly to job replacement rather than new hiring.

Under the plan, financial and employment support would only be provided when an employer removes a foreign worker from a position and hires a qualified Bahraini to fill the same role. The support would aim to bridge salary differences and help ensure job stability for Bahrainis during the transition period.

Dr Seroor said the initiative responds to current economic pressures affecting some businesses, noting the need for practical measures that help firms reduce costs while increasing employment opportunities for citizens.

He added that the proposal



Dr Munir Seroor, MP

A parliamentary proposal calls for a temporary government-backed scheme to replace foreign workers with qualified Bahraini nationals, linking financial support directly to actual job replacement.

differs from existing schemes by making support conditional on actual replacement outcomes, describing it as a faster and more direct approach to labour market localisation.

The proposal also suggests using existing Tamkeen programmes in a more targeted way and limiting the initiative to a fixed period to achieve quicker results in the labour market.

Help is a Call Away

New reporting system aims to speed up animal welfare response

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Abdulla

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture (Agriculture and Animal Resources Affairs) launched a dedicated hotline to enhance animal welfare reporting across Bahrain, aiming to improve response time for cases of abuse, neglect, and stray animals.

The initiative is designed to streamline public reporting and strengthen enforcement of animal protection regulations, while encouraging greater community participation in safeguarding animals and public safety.



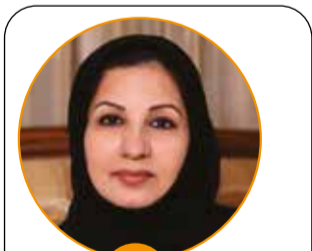
Animal Welfare Reporting

Hotline : 17987227

Timing: Daily, 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

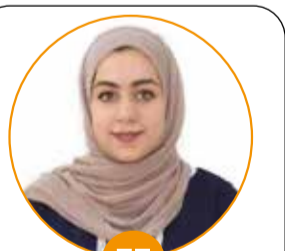
Stray Dog Reports : WhatsApp / Mobile: 38802487

Stray dog sightings and location tracking



"This issue is not new. It began worsening during COVID-19 when many people lost their jobs"

FATHIYA AL BASTAKI, FOUNDER OF THE "BAHRAIN STRAYS" INITIATIVE



"We have rescued more than 100 small breeds in less than a year, but adoption rates remain worryingly low."

BAYAN KHALID, FOUNDER OF THE INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT @STRAYSADOPTIONBH

Officials say public cooperation will play a key role in improving animal welfare outcomes and managing stray populations more effectively in residential areas.

Animal welfare advocates have long raised concerns about rising abandonment cases and limited shelter capacity. Volun-

teers working on the ground say they continue to handle increasing rescue cases, particularly involving small breeds, while calling for stronger structural support.

"This problem is not new, but it has been getting worse over the years," said Fathiya Al Bastaki, founder of the Bahrain Strays

initiative, noting that economic pressures and lack of facilities have intensified the challenge for volunteers.

Advocates have welcomed the hotline as a positive step but stress that long-term solutions, including shelters and medical support systems, remain essential to address the growing issue.

Mangrove Museum Proposal Gains Momentum



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to establish a mangrove-focused museum in Madinat Salman is gaining momentum, with officials highlighting its environmental, educational and tourism potential.

Northern Municipal Council member Bassem Abu Idris said the project has received positive feedback from key government bodies, including the Ministry of Oil and Environment and the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture.

The proposed museum aims to raise awareness about mangroves' role in coastal protection and marine biodiversity, while creating a new destination for visitors and students. Plans include educational and visitor facilities such as an environmental cinema, a conference hall and waterfront services.

Abu Idris noted the project could become the first of its kind in the region, combining conservation, education and eco-tourism. He added that



partnerships with private-sector firms and integration into school programmes are being considered.

The initiative aligns with Bahrain's broader push for sustainability and greening pro-

jects. Authorities have already identified suitable locations in Madinat Salman for mangrove planting, and technical studies are underway to ensure site viability.

"Mangroves are not just trees, they are a frontline defence for our coasts and a vital part of marine life."

BASSEM ABU IDRIS, NORTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

The proposed mangrove museum will feature an environmental cinema, conference hall and waterfront visitor facilities, highlight the native *Avicennia marina*, integrate with school programmes, and could become the first mangrove-focused

