

Comedy 'booming on social media'

Bahraini comedian Saad Al Ameer, has 100,000 followers on Instagram alone

TDT|Manama
Muhannad Mansour

With the emergence of social media sites, applications and networks in the past decade, more people around the world would explore it as a platform to broadcast their talents leading to the birth of "online celebrities". The phenomenon has spread throughout the different cultures and nations of the world, including Bahrain, where Bahraini Saad Al Ameer, 23, became a prominent comedian on Instagram, YouTube and other sites. Tribune interviewed Mr Al Ameer who spoke about his story and how he became an "online celebrity" across the GCC, with around 100,000 followers on Instagram alone.

When did you start posting your videos on social networks and what motivated you?

I started recording short clips back in 2012 and was initially sharing them only with family and friends, mainly through



Mr Al Ameer

WhatsApp groups. Then, my friends and family appreciated my talent and encouraged me to go public. A year later, I started posting different videos online. They quickly gained popularity and were shared on different social media apps, including Instagram, YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter. My family and friends helped me grow more in this field and they've

always guided me on the type of topics and materials before posting online.

What is the content you focus on and the audience you target?

I usually film posts touching various topics. I have filmed videos giving religious advice, discussing wrong social behaviours

and funny videos. I have noticed that my audience is mainly between the age of 16 and 32. They are mostly Bahrainis, but I have received a positive interaction from followers from fellow GCC countries, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE. I also observed that the most shared and liked videos of mine were the funny videos and the clips touching social issues in a comedian frame.

What were the main challenges you faced?

The most difficult phase was the beginning, as I was suddenly exposed to thousands of viewers after my videos were initially shown to family and friends. I have received some harsh comments and had many critics in the beginning. This didn't stop me. It actually motivated and showed me some mistakes that I would avoid in my later works. Interacting with my critics and listening to their comments have actually gained me more followers. Even harsh comments served me a platform for growth.



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MR AL AMEERI

What are your future plans?

I look forward to develop my acting career. I haven't studied it, I was told by many that I have a natural talent. My ambition is to act on a stage or on TV one day. Anyhow, this won't stop me from posting on social media networks, as it was my beginning.

What's your advice to young people who are planning to build a career similar to yours on social media?

My advice is to believe in yourself and work hard. As everyone knows, it's more difficult to excel on social media nowadays unlike a few years ago. It's because of the existing competition. So I think one will only succeed if he/she comes with a new and innovative idea. When I began, many accounts that have big numbers of followers helped me by sharing my videos. I'll be glad to do the same with any upcoming Bahraini talents.

Top volunteer work award to also honour foreigners

TDT|Manama
Thamer Tayfour

The upcoming Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa Award for Volunteer Work will see a new category being introduced, according to its secretary-general Yacoub Buhaza'a.

Foreigners including Arab nationals will be considered for the award if they are carrying out any volunteer work in the Kingdom, he said.

Mr Buhaza'a said that companies, institutions, teams and individuals are entitled to register for the award and the participation is open to all age groups.

The application for the award began on July 10 and will end on August 15.

"The winning project in the previous versions of the award won't be considered this time. Deadline is very important and no applications will be entertained after the deadline.

"Innovation and leadership elements in the project will be taken into consideration as well as its sustainability

will be the criterion for the award."

He also said that the voluntary work should have been conducted without any discrimination including gender, religious or nationality bias.

"The principles of volunteerism should be upheld throughout the implementation of the project, which is of great importance," he added.

Tribune is the official media sponsor of the award.



The award will honour innovation and leadership elements in the projects.

MR BUHAZA'A

'Les Clefs d'Or' Pinning Ceremony



The Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, Shaikh Khaled bin Humood Al Khalifa, attended the 'Les Clefs d'Or' Pinning Ceremony organised by the Bahrain Hotels Concierge Group (BHCG) at Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay. The ceremony was initiated by the Founding President of BHCG and Chief Concierge of Four Seasons Bahrain Bay Hotel, Khalil Al Yaman.

Jailed convict blames black magic for drug addiction

The 37-year-old man admitted to police officers during investigations that he has been a drug addict for over 20 years.

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Ali Tarif

A Bahraini man was sentenced after he was found guilty of consuming drugs and setting his room on fire.

When asked, he told prosecutors

that someone was doing black magic on him.

The 37-year-old was arrested after his mother reported the incident to police.

According to court files, the defendant told his mother that someone was doing black magic on him

by keeping a special paper in his room.

To get rid of all these papers, he burnt them, which led to a big fire that destroyed the room.

Police officers seized several items used to consume hashish and shabu and other illicit narcotic pills.

The 37-year-old man admitted to police officers during investigations that he has been a drug addict for over 20 years.

He was charged with consuming drugs, and the High Criminal Court sentenced him to one year behind bars along with BD1,000 fine.