

Calls for Turning Stability Into Investment Gains

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Mohammed Darwish

Bahrain should use the calm that followed recent tensions to push growth, quicken development projects and keep support flowing to the sectors hit hardest, Khalid Al Maskati has said.

The head of the Shura Council's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee said government measures to provide liquidity, aid affected sectors and cover the wages of Bahrainis in the private sector during exceptional circumstances showed that citizens remained first among state priorities.

He said those steps helped protect living standards and social stability, while giving firms room to keep operating through a difficult spell.

Mr Al Maskati said the next phase should be treated as a chance to draw more investment, move faster on projects and deepen links between the public and private sectors.

"Countries are not measured only by their ability to get through challenges, but also by their ability to turn those challenges into chances for growth and to build on what



"Bahrain has shown it can face economic pressure calmly while keeping development and services moving forward."

KHALID AL MASKATI, HEAD OF THE SHURA COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

the economy on firm ground during periods of pressure.

The kingdom now needed to build on that base by moving faster on development projects, aiding growth sectors and giving investors, citizens and the private sector greater confidence in the course of the economy, he said.

Mr Al Maskati said reforms in finance and the wider economy, fiscal discipline, digital change and an improved legal framework had helped Bahrain keep services and business activity running despite shifting conditions.

He said those steps were no longer optional reforms, but part of the economy's ability to absorb pressure and adapt.

He said the past period also showed the need for closer work between state bodies and the private sector, with economic activity and services relying on joint planning rather than short-term remedies alone.

Economic confidence, Mr Al Maskati said, is now one of the main drivers of investment. Investors are more likely to expand when they see stability and a clear course ahead, while reassurance among citizens feeds into spending, demand and wider market activity.

has been achieved,' he said.

Bahrain, he added, had shown under His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and with the follow-up of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, that its institutions could keep

A Glimpse of Dilmun, the Ancient 'Last Paradise'

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Neethu V

As part of International Museum Day celebrations, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities invited visitors into the world of the ancient Dilmun Civilization through special tours and exhibitions. Among the highlights was the Hall of Graves, where centuries-old burial traditions, artefacts and beliefs surrounding the afterlife offered a vivid glimpse into one of the world's oldest civilizations.

Inside the Hall of Graves at the Bahrain National Museum, visitors explored one of Bahrain's most remarkable archaeological treasures – burial mounds dating back more than 4,000 years, all recognized under UNESCO World Heritage Status.

Museum guide Yusuf Al-saeed explained that civilizations across the ancient world believed Dilmun was the "last paradise," drawing people from distant lands and ancient trading



Ancient burial chambers at the Hall of Graves in the Bahrain National Museum showcase Dilmun-era funerary traditions.

civilizations to bury their loved ones in Bahrain in hopes of rebirth after death.

The exhibition traced Bahrain's historical identities through the ages. The island was known by different names throughout history, including Dilmun, Tylos and Awal, before the modern name Bahrain became established – meaning "two seas," referring to the salt-water sea surrounding the island and the freshwater springs once abundant beneath the ground.

Artefacts discovered inside the graves revealed details of daily life and beliefs surrounding the afterlife. Warriors were buried with weapons, craftsmen with tools, and women with jewellery and cosmetics. One display featured green eye shadow preserved inside a shell container, showing how makeup was used thousands of years ago.

Among the highlights was the "Butterfly Gold Piece," an intricately crafted ornament dating back nearly 4,800 years, reflecting Bahrain's long history of craftsmanship and trade.

Visitors also learned how archaeologists study bones and pottery to uncover the origins of those buried. Bahrain's ancient spring water contained high fluoride levels, leaving distinct marks on bones and helping researchers determine whether individuals had lived on the island or arrived from abroad.



Museum guide explaining the ancient Dilmun trade system to visitors

One Creative Stage

A Celebration of Bahrain's Visual Arts

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Ghadeer Alkumaish

The 52nd Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition brought together 75 visual artists presenting diverse artistic experiences and varied visual approaches at the Bahrain National Museum, reflecting a wide range of perspectives and styles across different forms of visual expression. Organised by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA), the exhibition stands as one of the Kingdom's most significant and enduring cultural events.

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, deputised His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa to inaugurate the official opening – a ceremony that began with the recognition of award winners in celebration of their creativity and meaningful contributions to the local art scene.

The Awards

Abduljabbar Al Ghadhban received the prestigious Al Dana Prize for his work *Suffering* – four interconnected works combining graphic and painting techniques that reflect the humanitarian crisis in Gaza through a symbolic visual language, conveying human pain through the faces of women and children. Khalid Al Abbas was awarded the Nexus Program Prize, presented by Al Riwaq Art Space, while Hussain Ali received the Art Station Prize, presented by RAK Art Foundation.

The Jury Committee also honoured artist Camille Zakharia in recognition of his outstand-



Al Dana Prize winner: Painting by Artist Abduljabbar Al-Ghadhban

ing contributions to documenting architecture in the Gulf region, resulting in a significant visual archive reflecting the identity and cultural character of place, and for his continued support of the cultural scene in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Three artists were additionally selected for solo exhibition opportunities: Dr. Mayasa Al Sowaiddi was granted an opportunity by Folk Art Space, Ahmed Al Asad by Gallery56, and Sh. Rasha bint Salman Al Khalifa by Albareh Art Space.

The Jury

These results followed a thorough and carefully considered evaluation based on precise artistic criteria, carried out by a Jury Committee comprising Dr. Effat Fadag, curator and Director of Naqsh Art Studio; Suheyyla Takesh, Director of Barjeel Art Foundation; and Hayfa Al Jishi, curator and founder of Albareh Art Space. Curator Bader Al Saad oversaw the overall artistic coordination of the exhibition.

Al Dana Prize recipient Ab-

duljabbar Al Ghadhban expressed his pride in winning the award for the second time, describing it as a reflection of BACA's commitment to supporting artists and encouraging them to present their best work. He noted that the burdened expressions in his work were not merely visual elements but formed the emotional core of the jury's response, highlighting the expressive strength and human dimension of the piece. Unlike many exhibitions built around a prescribed theme, the Bahrain Annual Fine Arts Exhibition allows artists the freedom to determine the direction of each edition through the works they submit.

The Hidden Side of Learning Challenges



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Ghadeer Alkumaish

In many homes, it starts with small but worrying signs. A child takes longer than expected to complete homework, forgets instructions quickly, or struggles to stay focused on simple tasks. Over time, these moments can be misunderstood as carelessness, lack of effort, or even defiance. But in reality, the issue is often far more complex.

At Brain Wave, located in Salmaniya Pearl Building, Fawzieh Kiwan, brings over 18 years of experience as a Behavior Consultant and Certified ADHD Coach. She explains that what parents observe on the surface is often linked to deeper cognitive and behavioral challenges. "We often see difficulties with attention, memory for instructions, and processing information quickly," she says. "On the behavioral side, many children show frustration, inconsistent motivation, impulsivity, or emotional reactions when tasks feel challenging."

One of the most common misunderstandings, she notes, is the assumption that motivation alone is the problem. "Motivation issues usually look like: 'They can do it, but they won't.' Learning difficulties look more like: 'They want to do it, but it's hard in a way that doesn't match their effort.'"

This distinction becomes essential when deciding how to support a



Fawzieh Kiwan

child. Without it, parents may respond with more pressure, repetition, or punishment strategies that often worsen frustration rather than improve performance.

Attention challenges, for example, are not always a cause for concern in younger children. However, they become significant when they are persistent and disruptive. "It becomes a concern when attention issues are frequent, persistent, and interfere with daily learning or relationships across different settings," Kiwan explains.

Another important misconception is that academic struggle reflects low intelligence. In many cases, children who struggle are actually highly capable but face difficulties in how they process information. "A child can be very bright but still struggle if the challenge is in how information is processed," she says. "So intelligence can be present, but school tasks don't fit the child's cognitive profile."

Emotions also play a powerful role in learning. When children feel stressed, anxious, or frustrated, their ability to process information decreases significantly. With early understanding and the right support, children can move beyond frustration and begin to rebuild confidence not just in school, but in their ability to learn and grow.

ILA Bahrain Launches 'Nightingales of Bahrain Service Award 2026'

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Pradeep Puravankara

Marking a remarkable milestone of 70 years of community service, the Indian Ladies Association (ILA) Bahrain has announced the prestigious "Nightingales of Bahrain Service Award 2026." The initiative aims to honor and pay tribute to the dedication of the nursing community serving across the Kingdom.

As part of the landmark celebrations, ILA Bahrain will honor 70 dedicated nurses of various nationalities who have completed more than 25 years of exceptional service in the profession. Held under the theme "A Tribute of Gratitude. A Legacy of Care.", the award recognises these silent heroes whose compassion and unwavering commitment continue to inspire society every day.

Organized in collaboration with the American Mission Hospital (AMH), the grand award ceremony is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the King Hamad American Mission Hospital in A'Ali.

For enquiries and further details, the public can contact Smitha Jensen at 3933 3089, Gibi John at 3904 3910, or Sunanda Gaikwad