

Youth Media Talent Celebrated at Youth City 2030

Media ministry highlights practical training as winners of the ‘8 O’Clock News Challenge’ are honoured.

TDT | Manama

Deputy Information Minister Yousif Mohammed Al Binkhalil praised the outcomes of the media programmes at Youth City 2030, highlighting Bahrain’s continued commitment to empowering young people and preparing them to contribute to the Kingdom’s comprehensive development.

Al Binkhalil said the strong support given to Bahraini youth under the leadership of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, reflects the Kingdom’s long-standing national vision of developing a skilled and capable new generation.

He also commended the ongoing support of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty the King’s Representative for Humanitarian Work and Youth Affairs and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, for youth-focused initiatives, particularly Youth City 2030.

The remarks came during Al Binkhalil’s visit to Youth City 2030, where he reviewed sev-



eral media programmes and activities organised by the Ministry of Information as part of its participation in the event’s 15th edition, held under the theme “Create Your Media Experience.”

He praised the continued success of Youth City 2030 in providing a practical training environment that helps young people develop their skills, discover their talents and gain hands-on experience across a range of disciplines.

Al Binkhalil said the ministry’s participation reflects its commitment to developing national media talent by offering specialised training programmes that keep pace with the rapidly evolving media in-

dustry. He noted that the initiatives focus on strengthening participants’ professional and creative skills while providing practical experience through direct training and real-world application, helping prepare qualified Bahraini media professionals for the future.

During the visit, the Deputy Information Minister attended the closing ceremony of the “8 O’Clock News Challenge,” one of the ministry’s flagship programmes at Youth City 2030. The challenge enables participants to produce television news bulletins in a professional newsroom setting, guiding them through every stage of news production to simulate real-life work in media organisations.

MP Seeks Warnings on AI Food Images

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to stop restaurants fooling diners with sloppy AI-generated food pictures has been lodged by MP Maryam Al Dhaen. It would force eateries to place a clear warning beside any computer-made image used on menus or food delivery apps. Ms Al Dhaen said such pictures were now so lifelike that customers could struggle to tell them from real photographs.

The result, she said, was that diners could order one thing and receive something that looked far worse when it reached their door.

‘Burgers appear taller, meat looks juicier and portions seem larger on screen,’ she said.

She said trust was being chipped away as diners grew more wary of slick pictures that made meals look bigger, richer and better than they were. Some customers could feel cheated, she added, while the use of fake food shots could also suggest that a restaurant was cutting corners instead of spending money on the quality of its dishes.

The proposal asks where the line should be drawn when a picture sits beside the name of a meal, its price and an order button. The move rests on Article 6 of Bahrain’s Consumer



Protection Law No 35 of 2012.

The law says sellers and advertisers must give true details about the nature and features of a product and must not create a false or misleading impression. It also bars adverts that leave buyers mistaken or confused.

Though the law does not name generative AI, its wording could cover pictures that give a false view of a meal’s size, look or contents. The proposal also points to rules used in Japan, where food adverts and packaging are judged by the impression they leave as a whole.

Pictures and drawings can breach the rules when they make food look far better than it is.

A small note saying an image is for illustration may carry little weight when the main pic-



‘Burgers appear taller, meat looks juicier and portions seem larger on screen’

- DR MARYAM AL DHAEN, MP

ture still leads buyers to expect something they will not receive.

“One hand is enough”

Survivor inspires others through resilience

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Fourteen years after a friend’s reckless driving cost him his right hand, Saif Laila recently sat behind the wheel again for a drift session, this time in a controlled, safe setting. He is quick to say it was not about closure. “I made peace with what happened to me a long time ago,” he told The Daily Tribune in an exclusive interview. “I just wanted to try the experience and share it with people, and of course connect it to what happened to me.”

He was 14 at the time of the accident. He is 28 now, and there is no gap in his memory of it, no blackout that softened the moment. “I didn’t receive the news, I lived through the whole experience,” he said. “There was no loss of consciousness. I woke up and saw the amputation. It happened in that moment.”

Two things carried him through what followed, he said: his faith and the people closest to him. “The belief that this was destiny from God, was the biggest factor,” he said, “along with the role played by my family and the environment around me.” Even so, adjusting took time. Coming to terms with it psychologically took about a year to 18 months, he said, while relearning the practical skills of daily life took three to four years, spread across the years he spent finishing school and then starting university.

Writing was the first real difficulty. He had always written with his right hand and had to learn to do it with his left instead. But the harder challenge,



“You are capable today of changing the way you think, and of seeing that you have far greater capacity than what others may have”

- SAIF LAILA

he said, came after he left hospital, in the way people looked at him. “With God’s grace I overcame it,” he said, “and what used to be a painful look became one I use in a positive way, trying to send a good message to people who see me on the street.”

That shift changed how he saw his own story. He began to notice that people who felt hopeless because of their own circumstances responded differently when they saw what had happened to him. “They were affected positively,” he said. “They saw that there is hope in life.”

He said the misconception he encounters most often, particularly among the families and friends of amputees, is the assumption that losing a limb means losing the ability to cope. Changing that idea is behind his motto, “One hand is enough.”



“It’s about being capable as a person, whatever your circumstances, whatever you’ve lost in life,” he said. “With whatever abilities and resources you have today, you are enough to develop and reach whatever dream you want to reach one day, God willing.” The phrase grew out of conversations with strangers who stopped him in the street, assuming at first that his life must be limited, then realising otherwise once they had spoken to him. Since he cannot speak to everyone who sees him, sometimes hundreds of people in a day, he decided a written message could do that work instead.

Asked what he considers his biggest personal achievement, he pointed first to his own state of mind, the confidence that he can meet any challenge, and the fact that something painful became something that helps other people. Close behind, he said, is being able to support other amputees and their families. He recalled a former teacher, who had helped him through his own recovery at school, calling years later to ask him to help a relative



who had also lost a limb. “It was an unusual feeling,” he said, “the moment I arrived and saw the effect on that person and their family.”

Asked what message he would give the world, Laila said: “You are capable today of changing the way you think, and of seeing that you have far greater capacity than what others may have convinced you of, or made you feel you don’t deserve what you’re hoping for. That is their opinion. But your will and your ability, given to you by God, are far greater than the opinions of the people around you.”

25 Poems in Minutes, Asia Honour at 8

Most children take time to think before writing a poem. Eight-year-old Fellah Mehak A. creates one in seconds.

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

The Bahrain-based youngster earned the prestigious ‘Grandmaster’ certification from the Asia Book of Records after composing and singing 25 original English poems in just 8 minutes and 22 seconds.

Originally from Kerala, India, Fellah achieved the feat at the age of 8 years and 4 months. During the record attempt, she was given random prompt words and, without preparation, transformed each into a three-to-four-line poem before singing it. The achievement was officially confirmed on June 16, 2026.

For Fellah, poetry began as a natural expression of her imagination. Her father, Akbar Shah, an engineer with a multinational corporation, told The Daily Tribune that the family first noticed her talent when she was around four.

“When she was about four, we noticed she was always making up little stories about whatever was around her. We saw how much she enjoyed playing with words, so we encouraged her to turn those ideas into short, fun rhymes,” he said.

Fellah’s creativity often appears spontaneously rather than through a set routine. “Whenever she’s lost in her own world, like while playing or painting, she’ll suddenly start singing and making up rhymes on the spot in her own words,” Akbar said.

Her mother, Shafna Akbar Shah, an advocate and a poet whose work has been published in newspapers, was the first to recognise her ability. The family began giving Fellah random words as a creative challenge, and her ability to instantly turn them into rhymes encouraged



them to apply for the India Book of Records, where she was previously recognised.

Living and studying in Bahrain, Fellah continues to build on her passion for literature and storytelling. Her latest achievement has taken her talent from national recognition to the Asian stage.

The Asia Book of Records recognised her exceptional command of language, quick thinking and ability to combine imagination, rhyme and melody under pressure.

Her family described the milestone as a proud moment.

“Fellah’s ability to express deep imagination with such speed and confidence is truly inspiring. We are immensely proud to see her represent our family, community and country on the continental stage,” they told TDT.

Fellah’s record-breaking achievement highlights the importance of nurturing creativity in children and celebrates the remarkable possibilities that emerge when young talent is encouraged to grow.