

T2 members and community projects honoured at thanksgiving celebration



Travelers Tribe Masonic Club Bahrain officials and members



A raffle winner

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The Travelers Tribe Masonic Club Bahrain, widely known as T2, celebrated its annual Thanksgiving event with great success, drawing around 160 participants, including families, friends, colleagues and supporters.

The evening began with an invocation led by Joselito Sarmiento, setting a reverent and heartfelt tone for the celebration.

In his keynote address, Travelers Tribe Masonic Club Bahrain President Mitch de Guzman reflected on the significance of the gathering and the year's theme.

Thanks

"Our theme, - Giving Thanks and Seeking Light - reminds us why we are here," he said. "We give thanks for the blessings, friendships, and opportunities we've received, and we seek light to guide us forward with purpose, compassion, and unity."

President de Guzman encouraged everyone to look ahead with gratitude and solidarity: "Let us enjoy this evening together with thankful hearts, celebrating all that we have accomplished and all that we will achieve in the year ahead."

The venue radiated joy with its vibrant neo-color setup, creating a festive and lively



The Travelers Tribe Masonic Club Bahrain (T2) is a brotherhood composed primarily of Filipino-American professionals, many of whom are connected to the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bahrain.

ambiance that especially delighted children. Guests also enjoyed a delicious array of Filipino dishes, highlighted by a succulent roasted turkey, which became one of the evening's crowd favourite.

Raffle

During the much-awaited raffle segment, guests cheered as premium prizes were drawn, including a 65-inch Samsung television.

Adding a heartwarming twist, Paul Candaza, a fellow T2 member, voluntarily gave up the sound bar he initially won, prompting the prize to be re-raffled, a gesture that brought cheers and excitement to the audience.

Seeds of tomorrow

Students showcase Bahrain's new era of agricultural innovation



● **Where young minds cultivate ideas that outgrow classrooms**

Ghadeer Al Kumaish

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Student Agricultural Innovations Expo 2025 opened yesterday at Bahrain Polytechnic, attended by His Excellency Dr Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, and Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, Minister of Municipalities and Agriculture, together with the Secretary-General of the National Initiative for Agricultural Development and senior ministry officials

The ministers moved among the stands, tested prototypes and spoke directly with pupils from public and private schools who displayed practical, locally relevant projects.

AI-driven robot

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, students from New Vision School presented AgroGuard, an AI-driven robot designed to monitor plant health.

The system uses a camera to analyse foliage for signs such as healthy leaves, yellowing from nutrient deficiency, fungal infections or dryness.

When a problem is detected,



Students present their innovative agricultural projects

AgroGuard transmits signals through its software to trigger relevant treatments.

The team told The Daily Tribune the project targets Bahrain's high temperatures and limited water resources and aims to reduce crop losses by enabling earlier diagnosis and intervention.

Sustainability lab

In another exclusive interview with The Daily Tribune, Bayan Bahrain School showcased Eco-Lab 360, a school-level sustainability lab that recycles grey water from the kitchen through multi-stage filtration for use in irrigating campus plants.

The students reported the system recycles roughly 3,000 litres a month.

They also demonstrated a soil-analysis app: users measure soil properties, enter the data and receive recommenda-

tions for the best crop, irrigation schedule and fertiliser regime.

The team plans to integrate robotic automation to simplify home and small-scale gardening.

Vertical hydroponic system

Al Hikma School's Harvest Heights — also explained in an exclusive interview — is a vertical hydroponic system designed to maximise production in tight spaces.

The static tower supports 36 plants; solar panels charge lithium-gel batteries that run DC pumps to deliver water and organic nutrient solution evenly through pipe work and gravity feed.

The students emphasised the system's suitability for Bahrain's limited arable land and arid conditions, offering a compact model for urban and school gardens.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman In-



stitute — Solar water generation Purifying and harvesting water In an exclusive conversation with The Daily Tribune, student Ahmed Gharib from the Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Institute of Technology displayed a hybrid water-production prototype that purifies non-potable water using solar concentration to create steam, then condenses and collects the purified liquid.

The design also includes a method to extract moisture from air by creating a cold surface for condensation. The system relies on solar panels (including recycled units), a low-voltage heater, a cooling unit with a compressor and a stored-water tank. A support module using batteries and a generator provides backup power; the team said they incorporate AI for automated control and voice-assistant compatibility for user commands.

Practicality over novelty

Across the hall, a consistent theme emerged: the students built solutions tightly calibrated to Bahrain's realities — heat, scarce water and limited farming space — and focused on practicality over novelty.

Ministers engaged with the teams, asking technical questions and encouraging further development and potential scaling.

The projects combined engineering, software and sustainability in ways that suggest a real pathway from classroom prototypes to community or commercial application.

Qalali Folk Band receives 2025 Aga Khan Music Award in UK

London

Qalali Folk Band has been awarded the 2025 Aga Khan Music Award during an official ceremony held at London's Southbank Centre, in collaboration with the EFG London Jazz Festival.

The ceremony was attended by His Highness Prince Aly Muhammad Aga Khan, along with a distinguished gathering of international cultural and artistic figures.

This prestigious recognition marks international acknowledgement of Qalali Folk Band's prominent role in preserving and showcasing Bahrain's seafaring musical heritage in a contemporary form that reflects the Kingdom's rich cultural identity.

The band received the award in appreciation of its decades-long journey and tireless efforts to safeguard the tradi-



Qalali Folk Band delivers a captivating performance at the event

tional arts of Fjiri and Nahma, presenting them creatively to engage global audiences.

Its work draws inspiration from the legacy of Bahrain's early seafaring singers, particularly the renowned naham Salem Al

Allan, whose artistry remains one of the foundations of the band's distinctive style and enduring legacy.

During the ceremony, the Qalali Folk Band delivered a captivating performance of Bahri,

one of the principal forms of Fjiri, embodying the spirit of the naham aboard the ship, the voice that once stirred the hearts of sailors and helped them endure the hardships of the sea.

Man killed in bus-truck collision



An Asian man, aged 48, died in a traffic accident involving a bus and a truck on Shaikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Highway near the Nuwaidrat area, heading toward Riffa. Authorities immediately responded to the scene and are carrying out the necessary procedures as part of the ongoing investigation into the incident.