

Minister highlights leadership role of PM Fellowship Programme

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Preparing Bahraini talent for leadership and innovation remains central to the Kingdom's development agenda, Social Development Minister Osama bin Saleh Al Alawi said during a meeting with members of the 11th intake of the Prime Minister's Fellowship Programme.

During a field visit to ministry-affiliated centres, the minister described the fellow-



ship as a key national platform for developing leadership, management and institutional skills among Bahrainis and preparing qualified professionals for the government

sector. He said empowering national cadres with specialised knowledge and practical experience supports Bahrain's comprehensive development process led by HM King Hamad

bin Isa Al Khalifa and guided by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Al Alawi also reviewed the ministry's efforts to strengthen

social services and partnerships with government and civil society institutions, alongside programmes aimed at empowering Bahraini families socially and economically.

As part of the visit, the delegation toured the Social Protection and Care Complex, where they were briefed on services and support programmes provided to beneficiary groups.

'Sastra Pratibha' winners inspired at Embassy interaction



Students described the interaction as informative, inspiring and engaging.

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Students who earned the prestigious "Sastra Pratibha" title in the Science Talent Examination organised by Science International Forum Bahrain met Indian Ambassador Vinod K. Jacob during an interactive session held at the Embassy of India in Manama. The session focused on the

growing importance of science education and encouraged students to aim for academic excellence and leadership roles in society. The Ambassador also shared guidance on preparing for Civil Services examinations and explained the functions of various departments at the Indian Embassy. Students described the interaction as informative, inspiring

and engaging. The Ambassador also appreciated the efforts of Science International Forum Bahrain for its continued initiatives in strengthening science education among students in Bahrain. The session was attended by SIF Bahrain President K. S. Anilal, Vice President K. Chandrasekharan and other executive members along with the award-winning students.

Northern council boosts biodiversity drive

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's municipal councils are stepping up efforts to expand parks, protect coastlines and boost urban greenery as part of the Kingdom's push to translate local environmental action into global impact, Northern Municipal Council chairman Sayed Shubbar Ibrahim Al Wadaei said.

Marking the International Day for Biological Diversity, Dr. Al Wadaei said Bahrain's environmental direction reflects the 2026 theme, "Acting

locally for global impact," through coordinated laws, municipal programmes and national projects aimed at protecting marine, coastal and urban ecosystems.

Dr. Al Wadaei highlighted the role of municipal councils in managing public parks, gardens, walkways, recreational spaces and coastal protection projects.

He pointed to provisions in the Municipalities Law No.



Dr. Al Wadaei

35 of 2001, which empower councils to help develop public green spaces and coordinate with relevant authorities to protect beaches from erosion and pollution.

According to him, the Northern Municipal Council has put this mandate into action through recommendations supporting new parks, walkways and public gardens, along with tree-planting campaigns and the distribution of seedlings to residents.



No licence, no trade under new market rules

Bahrain introduces unified licensing system for municipal markets

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Bahrain traders and craftsmen will soon need both a municipal licence and an officially assigned site to operate in public and popular markets under sweeping new rules introduced across all four municipal areas.

The matching decisions, issued as Decision No. 1 of 2026 by the Capital, Muharraq, Northern and Southern municipal councils, give those covered six months from the date the rules take effect to regularise



Abdulaziz Al Naar, Chairman of the Muharraq Municipal Council

The regulations apply to public, central and popular markets established by municipalities, including the Capital Municipality, and classify them as public facilities designated for trading specific goods.

Under the new framework, no one may sell, buy, run a commercial activity or practise a craft inside these markets unless licensed to use a site allocated by the municipality.

Each municipality will form a markets committee chaired by its director-general. The



Abdulla Abdul Latif, Chairman of the Southern Municipal Council

committee will also include a municipal council member nominated by the council chairman, along with heads of the property and markets, legal affairs, revenue, building licences and regulation, and purchasing departments.

The committees will oversee licences, site allocations, withdrawals and reallocations in accordance with tender, auction, government purchasing and sales laws, as well as applicable financial regulations, after approval from the Undersecretary



Sayed Shubbar Al Wadaei, Chairman of the Northern Municipal Council

for Municipalities Affairs.

Applicants must be Bahraini nationals, must not be employed in the public sector and, where required, must be registered in the Commercial Register. They must also submit a certificate confirming they have no outstanding dues owed to the relevant municipality, the Capital Municipality or any other municipality.

The rules also prevent traders from holding more than one site in the same market unless they submit the highest bid and



Saleh Tarada, Chairman of the Capital Municipal Council

satisfy economic conditions set out in auction terms.

Applications must be submitted to the director-general of the relevant municipality, who will forward them to the markets committee. The committee must issue a decision within 15 days of receiving a complete application. Rejections must be justified, while no response within the period will be treated as an implied refusal.

Licensed traders and craftsmen will be required to personally operate their sites, although they may employ registered

workers. They must pay all fees, taxes and public charges, maintain licence and worker records, and avoid subletting, exchanging or relinquishing sites either wholly or partially.

They must also remain within the allocated boundaries, make no unauthorised changes to the site and begin operations within 30 days of receiving the licence. Failure to do so will result in cancellation unless an excuse is submitted at least 15 days before the deadline and approved by the committee, after which operations must begin within a further 15 days.

The decisions were signed by Saleh Tarada, Abdulaziz Al Naar, Sayed Shubbar Al Wadaei and Abdulla Abdul Latif, and will come into force the day after publication in the Official Gazette.

A fantasy world born in Bahrain: Eva Shafiee publishes debut novel

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

At just 13 years old, young Bahraini writer Eva Mohammed Shafiee began working on what she assumed would become another unfinished childhood story. Instead, years later, that imagination turned into *Mystical Realms* - her first published fantasy novel in English.

Now 18 and a university student, Eva is part of a growing wave of young Bahraini creatives finding their voice through storytelling. Published by Austin Macauley Publishers, *Mystical*



Eva Mohammed Shafiee

Realms reflects not only fantasy and adventure but also the thoughts, emotions and experiences that shaped her upbringing.

The story follows a ragtag team of five who join forces to stop a magical corruption spreading across their land, fac-

ing unexpected challenges and twists throughout their journey.

"When I first wrote *Mystical Realms*, I didn't really expect it to go anywhere," Eva said in an exclusive interview with *The Daily Tribune*.

"Seeing it now being published is like a dream come true for me."

Creative Roots

Eva's love for storytelling began early, fuelled by books, films and TV shows - especially *The Land of Stories* series by Chris Colfer, which she says deeply inspired her as a child. Togeth-

er with her younger sister, Eva often created characters and unfinished plots, unknowingly laying the foundations for her future as a writer.

Many of the characters in *Mystical Realms* were shaped by real life emotions and relationships, she explained.

"Whether it's on purpose or not, the people you know and the experiences you've gone through are always going to bleed through into the things you create," Eva told TDT.

"For example, Gabriella was based on the kind of person I wanted to be when I grew

up - someone kind and caring, but willing to stand up for what she believed in."

"Molly and her brother were inspired by my relationship with my own siblings at the time. We used to fight a lot growing up, but eventually became much closer," she added.

Next Chapter

Beyond publishing a novel at a young age, Eva hopes her journey sends a larger message: fantasy stories and imaginative worlds can also emerge

from Bahrain and the Gulf region.

"Most of the creators I grew up watching or reading were from places like the US or the UK," she explained. "I wanted other young people from Bahrain to see that someone from here can create something special too."

Eva is already working on her next project, a fantasy series blended with sci-fi elements - proving that for this young Bahraini author, *Mystical Realms* is only the beginning.

