

Planting the seeds of change

Youth City 2030 introduces young minds to Bahrain’s mangrove revival efforts

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

Young participants gained a firsthand understanding of Bahrain’s mangrove conservation efforts as Youth City 2030, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, organised a Mangrove Restoration Workshop at the Science and Technology Centre.

The workshop introduced participants to the fundamentals of mangrove rehabilitation and planting through interactive sessions and practical activities, highlighting the role these coastal forests play in protecting the environment and supporting climate resilience.

Participants learned that mangroves are unique trees adapted to thrive where land meets the sea. Beyond supporting biodiversity and marine ecosystems, they act as natural coastal barriers, store significant amounts of carbon and sustain local communities that depend on healthy shorelines.

The session also spotlighted Bahrain’s Grey Mangrove (Avicennia marina), the Kingdom’s



only native mangrove species, and highlighted key habitats such as Tubli Bay and Ras Sanad, where conservation efforts are helping preserve these fragile ecosystems.

“Engaging young people in mangrove conservation is essential to Bahrain’s sustainable future. By increasing awareness of mangroves as nature-based solutions that support Bahrain Vision 2030, we empower the next generation to become active partners in protecting Bahrain’s natural heritage and building more resilient communities,” UN-Habitat GCC Representative and Head of Country Programme in Bahrain, Dr. Ayman El-Hefnawi, told The Daily Tribune.

The workshop also high-

lighted Bahrain’s environmental ambitions, with mangrove restoration forming a key part of the Kingdom’s commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2060 and expand mangrove coverage fourfold by 2035. Tubli Bay currently has around 48 hectares of mangrove forests.

Participants also explored the role of mangroves as natural carbon sinks. Each tree can absorb around 20-25kg of carbon dioxide annually, with much of the carbon stored below ground through its root system. Around 200 mangrove trees are needed to offset the yearly carbon emissions of an average passenger car.

UN-Habitat, which established its Bahrain Country Programme in 2021, works with na-



Engaging young people in mangrove conservation is essential to Bahrain’s sustainable future.

DR. AYMAN EL-HEFNAWI, UN-HABITAT GCC REPRESENTATIVE AND HEAD OF COUNTRY PROGRAMME IN BAHRAIN

tional partners to advance sustainable urban development and climate resilience in line with the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, the National Afforestation Plan 2023-2026, and the Kingdom’s Net Zero 2060 goals.

The workshop encouraged participants to see mangroves not just as trees, but as one of Bahrain’s most valuable natural assets and a vital part of the kingdom’s sustainable future.

One Number Connects Four Municipalities

Unified hotline, WhatsApp and video appointments streamline access to all four municipalities



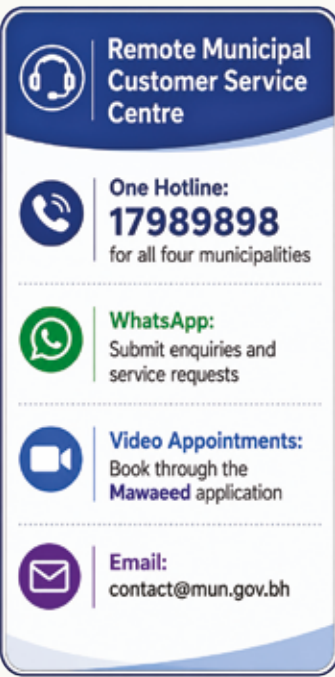
TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Minister Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak inspected the newly launched remote customer service centre, designed to provide residents with easier access to municipal services without visiting municipal offices.

During the visit, Al Mubarak was accompanied by Undersecretary for Municipal Affairs Eng. Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, chairmen of the municipal councils, directors general of the municipalities and several ministry officials.

The minister said the initiative reflects the ministry’s commitment to modernising municipal services through digital solutions and advanced technologies. He noted that the project simplifies procedures, unifies communication channels and enhances service quality, supporting the government’s broader efforts to redesign public services and improve the customer experience.

Officials briefed Al Mubarak on the centre’s operations, including how it receives requests, reports and enquiries, and follows



each case through to completion. The system is operated by qualified Bahraini staff using modern technology to ensure fast and efficient responses.

The minister also reviewed the process for directing requests to the relevant authorities and examined the performance indicators used to measure response times and service quality. He stressed the importance of continuously monitoring performance and further developing services to meet the needs and expectations of residents.

Isa Al Kabeer Art Showcase Launched

Competition aims to inspire creativity while preserving Bahrain’s historical legacy

TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Youth Affairs has launched the Year of Isa Al Kabeer Art Exhibition and Competition as part of Youth City 2030, inviting Bahraini artists to participate in a creative celebration of the Kingdom’s history and heritage.

Applications for the competition are open until August 4, with artists required to submit an online application along with a photograph or preliminary sketch of their proposed artwork.

Selected artworks will be displayed during the exhibition, scheduled to take place from August 17 to 20.

Youth Affairs Minister Rawan bint Najeeb Tawfeeqi said the initiative reflects the ministry’s commitment to strengthening national identity through art and encouraging young people to explore Bahrain’s historical and cultural heritage.

She highlighted that the exhibition aims to showcase the legacy of His Highness the late Isa Al Kabeer, Ruler of Bahrain and its Dependencies, and his role in shaping the Kingdom’s development.

The competition welcomes original artworks inspired by the Year of Isa Al Kabeer, covering themes such as the establishment of the modern state, justice and the rule of law, na-



tional identity, education, Bahraini architecture, traditional markets, maritime heritage, and leadership values.

Artists from various creative disciplines and artistic styles are encouraged to take part; the exhibition provides a platform to highlight Bahraini talent and creativity.



Art remains a powerful medium to celebrate Bahrain’s history, strengthen national identity and highlight the values that have guided the Kingdom’s development.

RAWAN BINT NAJEEB TAWFEEQI, YOUTH AFFAIRS MINISTER

Generations of craftsmanship under one roof

‘Bahraini Imprint’ exhibition brings together productive families and artisans to expand market opportunities and celebrate traditional craftsmanship

TDT | Manama
Neethu V

Twelve productive families and seven Bahraini artisans are showcasing the country’s traditional craftsmanship at the “Bahraini Imprint” exhibition, an initiative by the Ministry of Social Development to support local producers and expand their market reach.

The exhibition, held at the Capital Mall for Bahraini Handicraft Products until July 30, features everything from dhow building and palm-frond weaving to handmade wool creations.

The event was inaugurated by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development Ziad Adel Darwish, who said the exhibition reflects the ministry’s ongoing commitment to empowering productive families by creating sustainable marketing opportunities that strengthen the presence of Bahraini-made products in the local market.



Exhibition was inaugurated by Undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Development Ziad Adel Darwish

Artisans

He said the ministry continues to develop the Capital Mall into a comprehensive platform for supporting local producers through specialised exhibitions and events that attract visitors, boost sales and introduce more people to Bahrain’s authentic handicrafts.

Visitors to the exhibition can explore a variety of locally made products, meet the artisans behind them and watch demonstrations of traditional skills passed down through generations.

Among those preserving Bahrain’s maritime heritage is veteran boat builder Zuhair Abdulameer, who learnt the craft from his father, one of the country’s pioneering dhow builders. According to him, Bahrain’s identity as an island nation made boat building an essential trade for transport and commerce, and years of experience have enabled him to master every stage of construction, from design and measurements to the final assembly of each vessel.

The exhibition also highlights how traditional crafts continue to evolve to meet changing tastes.

Artisan Bahiyah creates handmade wool dolls and characters tailored to customers’ requests; children often choose cartoon figures while young people favour anime-inspired designs.

For palm-frond artisan Um Mousa, the exhibition is also a place to teach. Alongside displaying her handcrafted products, she offers practical training sessions for visitors interested in

learning the traditional weaving techniques. Participants are then given the opportunity to display and sell their completed creations at her booth, encouraging them to take their first steps into the craft.

By combining live demonstrations with direct sales and hands-on learning, the exhibition not only celebrates Bahrain’s rich cultural heritage but also creates new opportunities for artisans and productive families to transform traditional skills into sustainable businesses.

