

Rights push is highlighted

HUMAN Rights and Social Development Minister Dr Fatima Al Balooshi yesterday met Tunisian Human Rights and Transitional Justice Minister Samir Dilou and discussed bilateral relations. Their meeting was on the sidelines of the 19th session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Dr Al Balooshi outlined human rights developments in Bahrain, citing the establishment of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry. She also highlighted the steps undertaken to implement its recommendations. Dr Al Balooshi also met Mauritanian commissioner for human rights and relations with civil society institutions Mohamed Ould Abdallah Ould Khatra and Mauritanian permanent representative and head of the Arab group Shaikh Ahmed Ould Zahaf. Talks focused on issues featuring on the agenda of the UNHRC session and the need to co-ordinate pan-Arab stances.

Strong ties hailed

BAHRAIN-KUWAIT ties are deep-rooted and founded on a solid basis and will not be affected by any personal views, Kuwaiti Ambassador Shaikh Azzam Mubarak Al Sabah said. In a statement to *Kuwait News Agency*, he said the countries are bound by a shared history and common destiny.

Parliament forum

PARLIAMENT chairman Khalifa Al Dhahrani will head Bahrain's delegation to the 18th Conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union to be held in Kuwait from tomorrow until Tuesday. The forum will discuss a number of Arab issues, including unemployment and the role of Arab legislators in reducing it through enacting laws that create more job opportunities.

Zain winners

TWENTY customers have been named winners of the Zain Early Payer promotion. They are Moosa Mustafa Hashem, Nariman Abdulrasool Al Saffar, Rafeek Raja Kasim, Zuhair Abdulla Al Bahrani, Faisal Abdulrasool Yahya, Isa Ali Rashed, Mariam Ahmed Yousif, Jassim Ahmed Ali, Sreekrishnan Kumbalathu Viswanathan, Dalal Hasan Mosa, Jaffar Yousif Al Meabad, Bernadetter Wolfe, Binu Raj Tharakan, Manal Ahmed Al Shawaikh, Nader Mohamed Shadad, Ahmed Hamad Al Doseri, Manal Abdulhameed Omer, Fatema Yousif Ali, Abdulhadi Ali Al Qaidoom and Saritha Sudeeb Hegde. They won back their invoice amount, as well as 30 minutes of extra talk-time, after paying their monthly bills on time. They were automatically entered into a raffle draw to win back the invoice amount.



■ A photograph by Rasha Yousif. Below, artwork on display by artist and photographer Zeeshan Jawed Shah

Bringing art alive...

By ALICIA DE HALDEVANG

ONE of the biggest art festivals will bring Bahrain's talent under one roof over four days next week.

The Al A'ali Art Fest 2012 is being hosted by Al A'ali Shopping Complex from Wednesday to Saturday.

Established and upcoming artists have been invited to showcase and sell their work to the public during the event.

The exhibition will feature all forms of artistic expression including painting, sculpture, fashion design, music, photography, calligraphy and pottery.

The idea is to create an open platform and turn the shopping mall into a canvas for Bahrain's artists, say organisers.

As well as exhibitions and stalls selling artwork, a series of workshops will be hosted by local artists during the festival.

They will provide expert guidance and teach techniques that will help budding artists develop their skills and creativity.

Indian painter Madhvi Dhanak, who was brought up in Bahrain, will hold a

painting workshop in English on Wednesday from 4pm to 5pm.

Bahraini artist Abbas Al Mosawi will hold the second painting workshop in English and Arabic from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Gallery

Mr Al Mosawi, who holds a teaching diploma from the Higher Institute for Teachers and a Bachelor of Arts in interior design, has his own art gallery in the Sheraton Hotel.

On Friday, Mr Al Mosawi will host another workshop from midday to 1pm, followed by a calligraphy workshop called 'Arabic Calligraphy Nowadays' which will be in Arabic and led by Bahraini

calligrapher Aziz Qassim from 3pm to 4pm.

Artist Ella Prakash will hold a workshop on painting in English from 6pm to 7pm the same day.

Ms Prakash, who owns Ella Art Gallery in Adliya, started painting when she was 12.

Also on Friday, a session on film making and visual effects will be hosted by New York Institute of Technology team from 4pm to 5pm, followed by another workshop by Mr Al Mosawi in Arabic and English from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

The final day of workshops will take place on Saturday, with a fourth workshop by Mr Al Mosawi from midday to 1pm.

A session with artist Millie

Basu Roy will take place from 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

Ms Roy is influenced by her visual and mental emotions, as well as rural and urban landscapes.

Artist Vikas Kumar Gupta, who is also inspired by nature, will lead the final workshop on painting from 3pm to 4pm.

Those wishing to participate in any of the workshops must register in advance online at www.alaaliartfest.com.

The Art Fest will also raise money for charity, with 20 per cent of proceeds generated through the sale of artwork donated to various worthy causes in Bahrain.

An open photography competition has already been launched for all age groups and submissions are being judged by a panel of experts, with certificates and prizes to be awarded.

Al Aali Art Fest's biggest group of exhibitors are in the painting section and includes artists of all nationalities.

They are Aalaa Hussain, Abbas Al Mosawi, Alaa Hopmark, Amina Al Abbasi, Anna Leanda Thackray, Asghar Ismail, Avani Asher Parmar, Berenice Coelho, Conor Maguire, Cristina Cardona, Ella Prakash, Faiza Saeed, Fatima Al Saad, Heather Watt, Jesus Ramos Tejada, Lanne Carbaraca, Madhan Chinnathambi, Madhvi Dhanak, Manjiri Shah, Mariam Abdulla Fakhro, Mariam Khalil Janahi, May Mufeez, Meriel Cooper, Millie Basu Roy, Mohammed Shahid Khan, Mohammed Al Shaikh, Rebecca Gill, Rita Rizzo, Samridhi Chopra,

Sangeeta Kothari, Shaila Shreenath, Sita Dotinga, Sriparna, Sudeb Banerjee, Sumana Malakar, Sumit Chakraborty, Sunita Bildani, Tawfeeq, Victoria Platon, Vikas Kumar Gupta and Zeeshan Jawed Shah.

The festival will also host a large number of talented professional and amateur photographers taking part in the exhibition, including Armando Tingle, Bader Al Wazeer, Batool Al Shaikh, Glenn Wesley Dulay, Hana Tawfeeqi, Mani Tharakal, Maryam Ebrahim Al Huremi, Rasha Yousif, Richa Dalela, Richard Martin, Sadiq Jaffer Al Derazi, Shabeer Ahmed, Shukri Abdul Rasool, Sunita Bildani, Vishal Parmar, Zahra Al Shehab and Zeeshan Jawad Shah.

Designers

Fashion designers taking part include David Sa, Lune Couture and Sunita Bildani.

Sculptors showcasing their talents are Abdul Rasool Al Ghayab, Ahmed Sorour, Asghar Ismail and Connor Maguire.

Music will be performed by Bahraini rock band Motor Militia, who came third in the Bud Live Battle of the Bands competition last year.

Activities for children, such as finger painting, hand puppet shows, photography, clay modelling and basket weaving, will also be held during the festival.

For more information, visit www.alaaliartfest.com.

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■ One of Glenn Wesley Dulay's photographs