

A bus ride to protect nature

Mobile environmental education bus inaugurated for Capital and Muharraq governorates

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Manama

Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Minister, Essam Khalaf, yesterday inaugurated the mobile environmental education bus (Enviro Time) for the Capital and Muharraq governorates.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the building of the Municipalities Affairs' Under-secretariat here, in the presence of Municipalities Affairs Undersecretary at the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry, Dr Nabil Abu Al Fateh, Director-General of the Capital Municipal Council, Shawqiya Humaidan, Director-General of the Muharraq Municipality, Ibrahim Al Jowder and a number of officials.



Mr Khalaf with Works Ministry officials at the launch.

The minister was informed about the bus, which is owned by Gulf City Cleaning company, and the programmes and workshop it will deliver to raise awareness on environment protection, cleanliness and the recycling concepts

for students at schools and university and the visitors of parks, gardens and beaches, in addition to its participation in various local occasions and events.

The bus is re-developed and prepared to host workshops and aware-

ness-raising lectures on cleanliness, recycling and the environment in general.

The project was implemented by a number of Bahraini artists, who changed the interior design of the bus

through replacing the seats by modern furniture, including tables and chairs.

They also installed a display screen, a sound system and many other features that make the bus environment-friendly.

Kingdom's cultural heritage to be showcased at Expo 2020 Dubai

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

Following its award-winning pavilion at the 2015 Expo Milan, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities yesterday announced the participation of the Kingdom in Expo 2020 Dubai.

Running from 20 October 2020 until 10 April 2021, Expo 2020 Dubai is expected to attract 25 million visits, with 70 per cent of all visitors coming from outside the UAE, thus giving Bahrain a unique opportunity to promote its cultural sites and enhance its trade relations with the world.

Expo 2020 Dubai is the perfect opportunity to highlight the successes and developments in the Arab world, with Bahrain playing an important role towards these achievements.

The overarching theme of Expo 2020 Dubai is 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', which will be explored through three sub-themes of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability.

Speaking to Tribune, Shaikha Mai bint Mohammed Al Khalifa, President of the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities and Commissioner General



Shaikha Mai, with Mr Kerez and BACA officials at the press conference.

of the Bahrain Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, said, "We are greatly honoured to be trusted by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to represent our country in the most substantial and influential international exhibition."

"Our participation in Expo 2020 Dubai is an exceptional opportunity to introduce millions of visitors from all over the world to the unique cultural and archaeological sites of Bahrain. This opportunity proudly gives the international community yet another reason to admire Dubai's constant cultural achievements, which gives us all great pride."

"The Bahrain pavilion will focus on the theme of Density as an enabler of opportunities; an intricate exploration of the dense natural and urban compositions of Bahrain. Bahrain's relatively small geography has defined its development throughout the ages and the pavilion will showcase the way in which scarcity of land has naturally led to density in its development. This specific regional attribute of density has obliged the Islands to constantly reinvent themselves on the limited land available, and by doing so garnered a mentality of trade, entrepreneurship and innovation, that represents one of the country's biggest strengths and

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The Swiss architect Christian Kerez has been appointed to design the Bahrain pavilion. Kerez is an internationally celebrated architect, who is renowned for his innovative research into a structure.

When asked, Kerez told Tribune that the pavilion is envisioned as an open path of exploration into the interrelated concepts of creativity, density and opportunity and intrinsically explores notions of density through its structural principals.

"The 2,000-square metre structure is conceived as a 24m high rectangular building with a central and open exhibition space of 30 meters by 30 meters held by 187 columns of only 12 cm in thickness. The pavilion design is being developed in collaboration with the Emirati architecture firm X-Architects, who will be the architects of record."

"We are hoping to complete the entire pavilion in nine months, where as soon as the tender documents are ready which is by end of January, where depending on the tender procedures we will start working on the project."

"The structure is quite complex, though it looks very simple, where at the moment we have three different international companies working together to make this project a success."

distinctiveness.

"We are delighted to showcase the Kingdom of Bahrain's pavilion specially designed to portray the concept of density and its role in creating promising opportunities. Bahrain ranks among the top ten countries in the world in regard to population density. Moreover, diversity has become a fundamental and constant feature that enriches the outputs of vital fields and drives development forward," Shaikha Mai said.

"Diversity has become a fundamental and constant feature

Indian Talent Scan Festival concludes

TDT | Manama
Harpreet Kaur

The Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) yesterday concluded their talent festival, which consisted of 150 events.

As many as 675 children participated in the month long competitions, open to children of Indian expatriates residing in the Kingdom.

Speaking to Tribune, General Convener of the Indian Talent Scan, Leo Joseph, said, "The children were divided into four different groups on the basis of their age and there were a total of 150 events across all age groups. The competitions were held simultaneously in three venues every day."

675

children from 12 schools participated in the month long competitions.

"One of the highlights of this year was the inclusion of team events that was widely accepted by the children and parents alike."

"Children from 12 schools took part in the contests. The highest participation came from the Indian School. Students from The Indian School topped the list with 276 participants.

"This was followed by the Asian School with 168 student participants and New Millennium School with 90 student participants."



An artist's impression of the Bahrain Pavilion at the expo.