

Artists urged to help fight climate change

By MAI AL KHATIB-CAMILLE

CREATIVES from across the kingdom are being called upon to raise awareness about climate change and environmental challenges through art.

The British Council in Bahrain, in partnership with Folk Art Space and supported by the British Embassy and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, launched the Climate Change Arts programme with a 'Gardens are the Lungs of the Earth' panel discussion to generate understanding, collaboration and innovation around the issue of climate change amongst young people.

"Art plays an important role in climate change action, as artistic work can create public conversation through visualisation," said British Council in Bahrain's country director

Richard Rooze.

British Ambassador Roderick Drummond opened the event and the panel discussion included photographer Hussain AlMahroos, Map BH founder Ahmed Al Mutawa and UK-based exhibitions and collections manager, Andy Franzkowiak.

Together, they discussed the importance of utilising arts and culture platforms to navigate environmental challenges and climate change.

"The conversation brought together both the vibrant Bahraini and UK arts scene, allowing for exchange of cul-



■ Mr Rooze

tures, as well as understanding on how these countries grapple these environmental challenges through art," explained Mr Rooze. "I look forward to seeing this important programme develop over the next couple of months."

■ Mr Drummond opening the event

Mr AlMahroos, who is also a writer, was commissioned by the British Council to be a part of the programme as the main artist.

During the discussion, he spoke about how photographers can help bring attention to the importance of gardens through their imagery and by sharing it via social media and other platforms.

"Photographers should publish pictures with written words to show the change in gardens and the importance of keeping them alive instead of bulldozing them to transform green spaces into residential areas or neglecting the space all together," said Mr AlMahroos, highlighting a paper that he published regarding gardens in Bahrain in the 1990s and where they are today.

During the talk, he also introduced the programme while Mr Al Mutawa shared a review of the decline of green areas in Bahrain. Meanwhile, Mr Franzkowiak explored the relationship between people and the environment, as well as how to mend it through art.

Folk Art Space is a visual arts-focused art space that opened in 2019 in Schla. It aims to encourage dialogue in the



■ Mr AlMahroos

art field and give young artists the chance to present their work side-by-side with the great names in the arts. The British Council aims to build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language.

They are open to collaborate further with public and private entities towards supporting their joint initiative. It will feature activities and workshops held throughout February and March.

Details on programme events will be announced in the near future via @folkartspace on Instagram.
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Ithmaar Bank relaunches prize scheme

ITHMAAR Bank has relaunched its Thimaar savings account, offering its holders 2,016 prizes.

The Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank will also be providing a total prize of BD1,614,000, including four quarterly grand prizes of BD100,000 each, 12 winners of monthly salaries worth BD1,000 for one year for each winner, along with other monthly cash prizes.



■ Mr Al Mutawa

"Prize-based savings accounts are now almost an essential product within the retail banking industry, so it has become increasingly challenging for banks to find new ways to differentiate their products from those of competitors," said Ithmaar Bank deputy chief executive Abdul Hakeem Al Mutawa. "Following a thorough study and analysis of the market, we decided to offer prizes in Bahraini dinars, and to continue offering the highest chances of winning in the kingdom, which is an extremely attractive prospect for savers."

"Also, every BD30 maintained as an average balance qualifies Thimaar account holders to enter the monthly draws."

Customers can view the winners' list by visiting the bank's website at: www.ithmaarbank.com/thimaar

Owners of toy shop win logo theft claim

By NOOR ZAHRA

OWNERS of a local toy store, which has been in Bahrain for more than 40 years, have won a family dispute over trademark theft in court.

The Bahraini owners, represented by lawyer Faten Al Haddad, had filed a case against a family member at the Administrative Court in March.

They accused the defendant of copying the trademark of the store, registered under their name, illegally. They also said the defendant used the name of the store with slight changes to the colour of the logo.

The court ruled in favour of the Bahraini owners.

"The defendant copied the trademark, which is illegal," read the ruling. "The move caused financial damages to the plaintiff and hence the defendant has been ordered to withdraw the trademark."

Multilingual editions of book on Gandhi

THE English, Urdu, Hindi and Malayalam editions of a book commemorating ties between India's 'Father of the Nation' and the Arab world are being launched virtually today.

The Arabic book - which translates to *Gandhi: His Engagement with Islam and the Arab World* - by former labour and social affairs minister Abdulnabi Alshoala was first published two years ago.

Now translated into four languages, the book revis-

its Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's intellectual heritage, his appreciation of Islam and takes an exhaustive look at the different stages of his life and the impact it had on the Arab world.

Mr Alshoala will be joined on the occasion by Indian Ambassador Piyush Srivastava and Bahrain India Society chairman Abdul Rahman Mohammed Juma. Renowned Gandhi scholar Shobhana Radhakrishna will be the keynote speaker at the launch.



■ Mr Alshoala signs copies of the Arabic edition of the book

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