

Shafallah students to showcase talent



AILYN AGONIA - DOHA The students of Shafallah Center will dish out their talent in the field of music and art during the three-day 4th International Forum being held at the centre from April 20 to 22. Department heads of Shafallah Center announced on Saturday that special participation of the Shafallah children at the event would include musical presentations and an art exhibition.



Eighteen-year old Ibrahim Atallah will entertain the forum's high-profile guests during their visit to the Museum of Islamic Art on April 21. Atallah, a talented pianist despite his hearing disability, will be playing notes of classic music legends Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and L.V. Beethoven.

Shafallah music specialist Jamal Aridi said he was so impressed with the passion of Ibrahim in music that he started training the young pianist three years ago. He said that the dedication of Ibrahim in his craft manifested the potential of the child to develop his talent.

Aside from Ibrahim, a group of students will be rendering a song number which talks about man's relationship with environment and society during a special programme to be held at the Shafallah Center as part of the forum's programme. Shafallah's art specialist Bahaa el Beah announced that one of the centre's young art students, Noora Said, will be exhibiting 18 of her art works at the forum. He said that this time the focus of Noora's works would be on different schools of art. The 14-year-old young painter already displayed some of her masterpieces in exhibitions held at The One store in Landmark recently and during an art show held at the Golf Club.

Beah said, "We have a total of 54 students in our autism unit and six of them are very much into painting. We are focussing now on Noora and we want to challenge her to improve more as we see her deep passion and interest in arts. She loves attending our art classes. We have to increase the frequency of our sessions with her as well as extend our session time from 30 minutes to 1 hour." The art teacher added that Noora's dream of owning her own gallery was something they believed she could easily achieve. Beah said that they had, in fact, a waiting list of venues, including companies, where Noora would also be showcasing her works.

Apart from these presentations, which would also show the advance facilities and dedicated programmes of Shafallah in the fields of art and music, the two fields the Center considers relevant in developing the independence of their students, their efforts in promoting the rights of their students to be employed and papers related to their behavioural analysis, will also be presented at the forum.

Heyam Nasser al Suweidi, Director of Special Education, said that evaluating the abilities of these students and matching them with the standards of employers would be among the most important programmes. While Assistant Medical Director Hakam M Abu al Khair said that the behavioural presentation of Shafallah at the forum would show the findings of its new analysis lab on the condition of one of our behavioural- challenged students and their interventions to address this concern.