

Plan to clear garages from Arad housing area

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Garages and industrial workshops scattered through Arad's residential streets would be moved to designated industrial areas under an urgent proposal submitted by MP Hamad Al Doy.

The move calls for all such sites to be taken out of the neighbourhood and relocated to purpose-built zones outside housing districts, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the relevant environmental bodies.

In his submission, Al Doy says that workshops have spread

through the residential area over many years and that their presence inside the housing blocks now requires clear action from the concerned ministries.

Proposal

The proposal points to industrial areas already equipped with services and infrastructure that could receive these garages and workshops.

He reports that residents have faced constant noise and strong smells from the workshops, along with pollution and poor handling of oils and paints, which has affected living conditions and the general environment in Arad.

The text also links the activity of the garages to traffic prob-



lems, with streets in the district becoming clogged as vehicles are parked and repaired on the roads and in spaces originally marked out for residents.

According to Al Doy, some workshops have in practice

“Residents have faced constant noise and strong smells from the workshops, along with pollution and poor handling of oils and paints, which has affected living conditions and the general environment in Arad.”

— MP HAMAD AL DOY

men, in breach of safety rules and housing conditions, and this is described as creating health and security risks for nearby families.

Sites

The document maintains that keeping such workshops in the middle of residential areas is no longer acceptable given the presence of alternative industrial sites.

The proposal states that moving the workshops to suitable locations would improve living conditions in Arad, keep its residential character and ensure that industrial activity is carried out in a controlled way that does not harm people living in the district.

85 hospital psychiatric beds ‘missing’

● Ibn Al Nafees stays shut

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Capacity at Bahrain's main psychiatric hospital has been cut by nearly a third and dozens of people seeking addiction treatment have faced long waits for a bed after a key ward lay idle for almost three years, the National Audit Office has said.

In its 2024–2025 report, the watchdog said the Ministry of Health had not carried out the required renovation and extra building works on the Ibn Al Nafees building at the Psychiatric Hospital, even though it was cleared around three years ago after it was found to be in poor condition.

A Ministry of Works report dated 14 September 2022 had already confirmed the need for those works.

Delay

The delay reduced the hospital's capacity from 267 to 182 beds, a fall of 85 beds, equal to 32 per cent.

The report added that, as of 30 June 2025, there were 32 addiction patients on a waiting list for admission to the Psychiatric Hospital, in breach of the hospital's own rules, which require addiction cases to be admitted and treated as soon as they come forward and ask for help.

Waiting times from the date of their admission request to 30 June 2025 ranged from 53 to 109 days, with treatment yet to start.

Maintenance

Responding on Ibn Al Nafees, the Ministry of Health said it had worked with the Ministry of Works in 2022 to assess the building and define the scope of maintenance, and that the project was transferred to 'Government Hospitals' in 2023.

It said the scope of work was reviewed again in 2024 and the budget revised, with the updated package sent for financial approval along with a request for extra funds to cover the gap.

Bahrain's Transport Ambitions Take Flight

● Interactive start

Hasan Barakat
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At the Masaya Pavilion in the Ritz-Carlton Bahrain, His Excellency Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, opened the session by thanking AmCham and encouraging dialogue over monologue.

He highlighted the strong relationship between Bahrain and the US.

The minister reaffirmed Bahrain's commitment to Economic Vision 2030, centred on sustainability, fairness and competitiveness.

Transport and telecommunications contribute roughly 9% to the economy. Connectivity across air, land, postal and digital channels remains a key priority.

Expanding aviation

As an island nation, Bahrain views aviation as essential.



H.E. Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa speaks at the opening session

H.E. Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed outlined plans to develop the sector into a centre of excellence, focusing on commercial airlines, business aviation, cargo operations and MRO capabilities. Key partners include Gulf Air, DHL, VALOA Aviation and AirAsia.

The new terminal at Bahrain International Airport represents a US\$1.1 billion investment with long-term capacity for 14 million passengers.

Current targets begin at 3 million, rising to 5 million within five years.

A recent agreement with AirAsia includes a regional hub,

an MRO facility under Asia Digital Engineering, and regular cargo flights via Teleport using Boeing aircraft.

Private aviation

VALOA Aviation, having received an Air Operating Certificate, is preparing to expand private jet maintenance and services, including a dedicated hangar and a larger fleet.

A letter of intent was signed with Millennium Jet, a European private operator, to establish a presence in Bahrain.

Cargo operations continue to accelerate.

DHL has increased its fleet and volumes by 28% over four years and plans to build its largest regional MRO centre in Bahrain. Teleport is strengthening its regional logistics network.

Asia Digital Engineering plans to develop up to 14 MRO bases, beginning with four.

Boeing's long partnership

Wael Zaoud, Managing Director of Boeing Qatar, noted that Bahrain's aviation partnership dates back to 1977 with the introduction of the 737-200 into Gulf Air's fleet.

Recent additions include the 737 Connected Cargo and the

region's first 737 converted freighter.

He emphasised the importance of infrastructure, digital tools, maintenance and skills development to support future growth.

APM Terminals Bahrain, represented by CEO and Managing Director Matthew Luckhurst, highlighted more than 15 years of partnership at Khalifa bin Salman Port and a century-long relationship between Bahrain and MERSK dating back to the 1920s.

The company applies the same operational standards used in major US ports.

Efficiency gains

Modernisation and digitisation efforts continue across Bahrain's port operations, focusing on faster turnaround and cost-efficient handling.

In 2024, Bahrain's port was recognised internationally as the most efficient port of its size.

AI and digital twins

Luckhurst explained how AI is boosting productivity globally through better planning.

Swiss–Syrian artist to hold solo exhibition

Ghadeer Alkumaish
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On the opening day of Muharrag Nights 2025 today, Art Concept inaugurates the solo exhibition “Erasing the Distance Between Word and Color at Maison Jamsheer”, showcasing the work of Swiss–Syrian visual artist Deldar Felemez a painter, poet, and critic known for his unique fusion of poetry and abstraction.

More than a painter, Felemez invites viewers on a visual and intellectual journey where words dissolve into color and thought meets emotion.

His paintings become unwritten texts, spaces where



Artist Deldar Felemez

language gains texture and color speak in silence.

Each canvas challenges the boundaries of expression, exploring the dialogue between word and thought, memory and dream, logic and intuition a search for meaning that unites art and language as two faces of the same truth.

BTEA-BBK partnership



As part of the preparations for the launch of the “Bahrain Festivities 2025” season, organized by the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) under the slogan “Live Every Moment,” the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) is participating as the season's Platinum Sponsor. This sponsorship reaffirms the longstanding bank's commitment to supporting national initiatives and strengthening the tourism sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Sara Ahmed Buhijji, Chief Executive Officer of BTEA, stated that this sponsorship adds value to the season. Yaser Sharaf, Group Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait, said: “We are proud to sponsor this distinguished national season. ‘Bahrain Festivities’ is a vibrant community platform that brings families together in an atmosphere of joy and celebration of Bahraini identity.”

Planting initiative



As part of its commitment to sustaining plant cover and enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the region, the Southern Municipality continues its regular follow-up on the plants that were planted during Tree Week, held from 12 to 16 October 2025. This included the participation of various entities and institutions involved in planting activities along the Zayed City Walkway and several other sites, through planting and distributing 1,000 seedlings of various species. The aim is to ensure proper growth, maintain sustainability, and verify the condition of irrigation systems and routine maintenance.