

## Push for urban regulation and key proposals

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

The Muharraq Municipal Council approved the passage of a series of proposals related to urban regulation, infrastructure, and municipal services during the ordinary meeting of the Muharraq Municipal Council No. (11), held as part of the sixth municipal term and the fourth session of the 2025–2026 convening period.

The proposals, submitted by members of the Muharraq Municipal Council, addressed a broad range of municipal and planning matters, including traffic direction adjustments, road rehabilitation works, regulation of commercial activities, building access and exit arrangements, and measures aimed at enhancing order within residential neighbourhoods.

During the meeting, council members underscored that the approved proposals respond to persistent organisational challenges arising from increased urban density and pressure on infrastructure.

Emphasis was placed on the need to strengthen planning discipline while ensuring that regulatory measures remain practical and responsive to local conditions.

# Shoreline strategy

Muharraq Council endorses comprehensive package of coastal development proposals

Hasan Barakat  
TDT | Manama

The Muharraq Municipal Council approved the passage of a comprehensive package of coastal development proposals during its session, underscoring a unified institutional stance on reshaping the future use of the governorate's shoreline.

The proposals, submitted by members of the Muharraq Municipal Council, cover several prominent coastal locations, including Al Sayah, Bu Maher, Dair, Samaheej, and the Riya waterfront.

Their approval reflects a clear policy direction aimed at safeguarding the public character of the coastline while enabling structured and regulated development.

### Priority

Council members stressed



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during the session that coastal areas represent a strategic public asset that must be managed with long term social and environmental considerations in mind.

The approved proposals seek to address longstanding community expectations by advanc-

ing development frameworks that prioritise accessibility, service provision, and organised use of the shoreline.

The discussions highlighted the need to move beyond fragmented or temporary solutions, calling instead for coordinated planning that ensures coastal sites are developed in a manner consistent with urban planning standards and public interest.

### Deliberations

Throughout the session, the council reaffirmed that the passage of the proposals does not constitute final execution, but rather authorises the relevant executive bodies to proceed with the necessary technical, administrative, and regulatory procedures.

Members emphasised that oversight will remain in place at every stage to preserve the intended objectives of the proposals.

## Park investment file stalls amid Council, Municipality dispute



Khalid Al Qallaf  
Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama



Saleh Buhazzaa  
Al Qallaf to ask about the municipality's reply to the undersecretary's correspondence.

Plans to develop Hatim Al Tai Park went before Muharraq Municipal Council yesterday, with deputy chairman Saleh Bu Hazzaa and Muharraq Municipality director general engineer Khalid Al Qallaf giving different accounts of why the project file has stalled.

Bu Hazzaa told councillors that an earlier meeting, held on the instruction of Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture Wael Al Mubarak and attended by ministry undersecretary Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, the municipality's director general and the investor, had ended with a clear direction to complete the procedures and allocate the investment.

He said the meeting took place around three to four months ago.

After some time had passed, Bu Hazzaa said he contacted

According to Bu Hazzaa, the response did not match what Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa later reaffirmed, which led him to question how the process was moving.

He added that the investor had met most of the required steps for the project, but that one precautionary measure had resulted in the transaction being stopped in the electronic system.

Bu Hazzaa said the council is keen to preserve investors' rights and to encourage them to work with the municipality.

He called on the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture to form an independent legal committee to review the Hatim Al Tai Park investment file, so that the procedures are clear, fair and protective of the investor's position.

## Muharraq Council seeks new access roads for Block 262

### Facing traffic problem and public safety worries

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Muharraq Municipal Council has asked for extra access points to Block 262 in Diyar Al Muharraq, saying the area cannot keep running on a single entrance and exit without traffic trouble and public safety worries.

The call was raised at the council's regular Monday meeting, where members said one



way in and out leaves the block exposed when a crash, breakdown or emergency blocks the road.

Fadhil Al Oud, the representative for the Sixth Constituency, said the situation was unsettling for residents.



“People are worried, especially if there is a crash or an emergency.”

— FADHIL AL OUD, SIXTH CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTATIVE

“People are worried, especially if there is a crash or an emergency,” he told the meeting. “One incident can throw the whole block into confusion.”

### Sense

He said it made no sense for a full residential block to depend



“The main entrances and exits are the responsibility of the Ministry of Works.”

— NOOR AFOONI, HEAD OF URBAN PLANNING PROJECTS AT THE URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

on one access point.

“It is not reasonable for an entire neighbourhood to rely on a single entrance,” he said, warning that queues build up and that ambulances and Civil Defence teams could be held back.

Noor Afooni, head of urban

planning projects at the Urban Planning and Development Authority, attended at the council's request to explain which bodies handle the planning and delivery of entrances and exits, after the council said it had already contacted the Ministry of Works and sent recommendations.

### Designs

Afooni said the main entrances and exits fall under the Ministry of Works and need defined engineering designs.

“The main entrances and exits are the responsibility of the Ministry of Works,” she said, adding that coordination would take place to agree how the block's access should be handled.

The council agreed to write to the Urban Planning and Development Authority to confirm that main access points fall under the Ministry of Works, before sending a further letter to the ministry with the authority's reply attached, as it presses for steps to fix the problem.

## Manama: A vibrant city where cultural diversity and religious practices meet

Ghadeer Alkumaish  
TDT | Manama

Manama, the capital of Bahrain, is a vibrant city that welcomes visitors and tourists from all over the world.

What makes it truly special is its rich religious and cultural diversity.

In Manama, mosques, temples, and churches stand side by side, reflecting a long tradition of peaceful coexistence.

One of the city's most historic landmarks is the Shrinathji Shri Krishna Temple.

Over 200 years old and dedicated to the Hindu deity Lord Krishna, it is one of the oldest Hindu temples in the GCC.



Sacred Heart Church, the first church in Bahrain

Founded in 1817 by the Thattai Hindu Community (THC), who



The oldest Matam Al Bada back to 1275 AH

migrated from Sindh before the partition of India, it remains one

of the oldest Hindu temples in the region.



Shrinathji Shri Krishna Temple, over 200 years old

Visitors often marvel at its intricate design and serene at-

mosphere.

Manama is also home to the Sacred Heart Church in Bahrain is the first church to be built in the region, with its bells ringing for the first time on Christmas Eve, 24 December 1939.

Since its establishment, it has been guided by dedicated leaders and became the first Christian community in Bahrain in 1938.

Tourists are drawn to its beautiful interior, filled with religious murals, icons, and artworks, creating a truly spiritual experience.

The city's diversity extends to Shia matams, with around 84 for men and 48 for women, the oldest Matam Al Bada back to 1275 AH.