

Smart proposal
for sustainable
shared transport

● Bid to ease
traffic woes

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Members of the Capital Trustees Board yesterday approved a smart car-sharing scheme for Manama that is intended to ease congestion, cut emissions and reduce daily travel costs.

The proposal for smart, sustainable shared transport was submitted by board member Dr Bashar Ahmadi and is due to be worked into the capital's wider transport plans.

The scheme is built around a locally developed mobile application that would allow people to share their daily trips with others heading to the same place or to nearby areas, including major work districts and universities.

The app would match drivers and passengers according to where they are and when they travel, using live maps and instant updates, with an option to share fuel costs.

According to the explanatory memorandum, the first groups targeted are staff in large commercial and office areas, students at private universities, the University of Bahrain, BIBF and similar institutes, and government employees and bank workers whose hours and routes are largely fixed.

The aim is to create a large pool of users whose movements are regular enough for shared transport to run smoothly.

Innovation bridge

Hungarian experts push Bahrain toward long-term data-driven future

Hasan Barakat
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Hungarian data scientists are in Bahrain this week to explore opportunities for long-term expansion and to help local companies strengthen profits through advanced data-driven systems.

Hungary, widely recognised as Europe's leader in mathematics and data science, views Bahrain as the ideal gateway to the GCC.

The visiting specialists believe the kingdom is perfectly positioned to become the region's central hub for innovation.

Tamas Hovany, Chairman of the Bahraini Hungarian Business Circle, explained that the initiative aims to build a long-term bridge between the two nations in high-value knowledge sectors.

He noted that the growing cooperation is further strengthened by Bahrain Businessmen's Association Chairman Ahmed Bin Hindi, with both sides working to establish a more strategic and robust business partnership capable of supporting sustained technological and commercial growth.

The scientists stressed that data science is not confined to a single field.

It drives every modern industry, from automotive production to small businesses and, most critically, hospitals.

They described it as the essential ingredient that gives an economy its character, explaining that without data science, no sector can operate effectively in



Tamas Hovany
the modern landscape.

Talent

The Hungarian scientists outlined a clear path for Bahrain to cultivate national talent and create a generation of experts.

They explained that real involvement in live projects is the key step, enabling young Bahrainis to eventually become leading specialists.

They emphasised that the journey must begin early, with data science foundations introduced at the elementary level rather than waiting until higher education.

This, they said, must be paired with hands-on experience within local industries to build genuine capability.

They added that Bahrain's most data-rich sectors, including banking, ports, logistics, healthcare, and telecommunications, can attract strong talent by moving in a unified direction and giving data teams defined responsibilities and room to operate.

Innovation

For startups, reducing the cost of innovation remains vital.



Bence Horvath

The team highlighted that supportive government policies, particularly data sandboxes, can significantly ease early development.

They also underscored the importance of companies willing to share data responsibly, as well as the value of international cooperation in accelerating progress.

To strengthen Bahrain's research identity, the scientists recommended the creation of a central government database accessible to academic institutions.

They noted that such a resource would give Bahrain a robust scientific foundation that complements its established business strengths.

They also expressed strong support for a pan GCC ecosystem, explaining that wider regional collaboration can help reduce the hesitation companies often feel when dealing with sensitive data.

Looking ahead, they said Bahrain must develop industry-wide regulation and a unified national data and AI strategy if it is to integrate data science into its long-term plans.



Ahmed Bin Hindi

They believe this structured framework will ensure responsible growth and measurable outcomes.

Healthcare

While the main discussions centred on national strategy, Bence Horváth, CEO of Spicy Analytics, briefly highlighted the importance of structured and trustworthy healthcare data.

He emphasised practical tools that can improve staffing, reduce waiting times, and identify high-risk patients, while upholding the ethical transparency required to maintain trust between doctors and patients.

His perspective offered a glimpse into the wider potential of data science across key public services.

With these insights, Bahrain stands on the edge of a significant opportunity.

By building its talent pipeline, strengthening regulations, and supporting innovation, the kingdom could transform into the GCC's primary centre for data science, converting information into knowledge, value, and sustained national growth.

Housing ownership

Mohammed Darwish
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Widows and children of Bahraini housing applicants who die before receiving a state home can keep the family's housing file active, and in some cases take ownership of the property with outstanding sums written off, the Housing and Urban Planning Ministry has told the Shura Council.

In a written reply to member Nancy Khadouri, the ministry said Decision No. (909) of 2015 on the Housing System covers such cases through Article (83).

That article allows the ministry to transfer an existing housing application into the name of a member of the late applicant's family, by agreement among them and at their request, provided the person concerned forms an eligible family under the rules and is already listed in the original application.

The ministry added that the transfer mechanism applies when the head of the family who filed the request dies, and that the new applicant must fall within one of the four categories named in Article (5) of the same decision, covering the first, second, third and fourth groups of eligible families.

On the second part of Ms Khadouri's question, which dealt with sons and daughters of a deceased beneficiary who had already received a housing service but had not yet obtained ownership, the ministry described two paths that are followed in practice.

If the deceased leaves a wife and only minor child or children, the ministry cancels all remaining amounts.

Teacher held after 'assaulting' child

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A teacher at a private early intervention centre has been remanded in custody after prosecutors said security camera footage showed her striking a disabled boy in her class dozens of times over several days.

The Public Prosecution said the case began with a report from Samaheej Police Station in Muharraq, following a complaint by the child's father.

He noticed scratches on his son's hand and, on returning to the centre and checking the security cameras, saw the accused, an Arab national, hitting the boy repeatedly as he sat quietly in a classroom with other children with disabilities and learning difficulties.

Letter

Prosecutors reviewed a letter from the Ministry of Social Development stating that

the ministry's judicial police staff had recorded breaches at the early education centre and confirmed repeated assaults by the same educator on young pupils.

The Prosecution questioned the suspect, put the camera footage and other technical material to her, and she admitted hitting the child.

She has been ordered held in pre-trial detention while the inquiry is completed before referral to the competent court.

Demolition permits



The Capital Trustees Board has approved a rule that would require civil liability insurance to be attached to every demolition application. Under the proposal, any request to demolish a building must be supported by an insurance policy covering damage and injury arising from the works, given the risks demolition poses to lives and property. The plan, put forward by member Dr Bashar Ahmadi, is described as a way to protect public safety.

Vadyasangamam 2025: Grand Indian Percussion Festival Set to Rock Bahrain

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

Just one more day remains until Vadya Sangamam 2025, the proud stage for Indian percussive arts.

The event, organized by the Sopanam Vadyakala Sangham in collaboration with Convex Media Events, will take place tomorrow at the Tubli Adhari Park Ground.

Vadyasangamam 2025 will unfold on a colossal, specially designed stage that stretches for 50 meters, claimed to be the largest cultural venue ever created for an event in Bahrain.

The festivities will kick off sharply at 5:00 PM tomorrow



Padmasree Jayaram

with the Kelikoottu (auspicious announcement of the performance) presented by Mattannoor Sreeraj and Chirakkal Nidheesh.

This will be followed by a diverse presentation of Indian



Padmasree Mattannur Shankaran Kutty

dance forms featuring over 100 dancers.

The subsequent colourful procession and inaugural ceremony will feature several chief guests, including His Excellency Vinod Kumar Jacob, Ambassador of



Santhosh Kailas

India to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Artists

A contingent of 30 artists are traveling from India specifically for the Vadyasangamam.

A major highlight will be the

performance of Sopana Sangeetham, the eminent branch of the Indian classical music tradition, led by Ambalappuzha Vijayakumar and Eloor Biju, featuring a total of 71 artists on stage.

The event will also feature the spectacular Panchari Melam, a grand ensemble led by the Chairman of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi, Padmasree Mattannoor Sankaran Kutty Marar, and cinema star Jayaram, which will showcase over 300 percussion artists.

Musical program

The special musical program for the Vadyasangamam will be "Kathodu Kathoram," presented

ed by playback singer Lathika Teacher and Idea Star Singer fame Mithun Jayaraj.

The main presence at the event will include Sopana Sangeetham maestros Ambalappuzha Vijayakumar and Eloor Biju, the young Thayambaka kings Mattannoor Sreekanth, Mattannoor Sreeraj, and Chirakkal Nidheesh.

Other key figures include Kanjilasseri Padmanabhan (Veerashringala award winner), Valamthala (right-hand drummer) chief Vellinezhi Ramkumar, Ilathalam (cymbals) chief Mattannoor Ajith, Kurumkuzhal (short pipe) chief Kanjilasseri Aravindakshan, and Kombu (horn) chief Korayangaad Saju.