

2.23 Million Mangrove Seedlings Planted

Experts hail the initiative as a sustainable investment in Bahrain’s environment and biodiversity.

TDT | Manama
Ashen Tharaka

More than 2.23 million mangrove seedlings have been planted under Bahrain’s “Bahrain Mangrove” initiative, marking significant progress in the Kingdom’s efforts to protect coastal ecosystems, strengthen biodiversity and address climate change.

Launched in December 2024 by His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the initiative aims to quadruple the number of mangrove trees by 2035 and support Bahrain’s goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

Environmental experts said the initiative demonstrates Bahrain’s commitment to turning environmental strategies into practical results.

Professor Asma Ali Aba Hussain, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Head



HH Shaikh Mohammed bin Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa plants a mangrove sapling during the inauguration of the Bahrain Mangroves initiative in December 2024.

of the King Hamad Award for Agricultural Development judging panel, said mangroves are an important nature-based solution to climate change, helping absorb and store carbon while protecting coastlines and pro-

“Bahrain Mangroves translate national environmental visions into tangible achievements.”

PROF. ASMA ALI ABA HUSSAIN

“The initiative is a practical model for turning environmental strategies into results.”

DR. MOHAMMED ALI HASAN ALI

“Mangroves are vital to protecting Bahrain’s coasts and biodiversity.”

HAYA AL DOSERI

“Mangrove planting is an investment in the future of Bahrain’s marine environment.”

ALI MOHAMMED AL QASEER

viding habitats for marine life and birds.

Dr. Mohammed Ali Hasan Ali, Chairman of the Public Utilities and Environment Committee at the Shura Council, said the initiative provides a practical example of translating national environmental strategies into measurable achievements.

He added that mangrove cul-

tivation supports coastal ecosystems, biodiversity and climate resilience.

Environmental consultant Haya Al Doseri highlighted the initiative’s community value, saying it can strengthen public awareness and encourage greater participation in protecting Bahrain’s natural environment. She also pointed to the potential

of mangrove areas to support ecotourism, marine activities and scientific research.

Ali Mohammed Al Qaseer, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Clean Up Bahrain Society, described the initiative as an investment in the future of Bahrain’s marine environment.

He stressed that its success should be measured not only by

the number of trees planted, but also by continued community involvement in protecting and preserving them.

The experts also stressed the importance of continued cooperation between government bodies, the private sector, environmental organisations and civil society to ensure the initiative’s long-term impact.

Back-to-school costs squeeze family budgets

Some parents cross to Saudi Arabia in search of cheaper school supplies

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Families in Bahrain are facing back-to-school bills running into hundreds of dinars, with bags, uniforms and stationery followed by books, transport and private lessons.

A Daily Tribune survey found that preparing one pupil for school costs between BD50 and BD200, before many additional expenses are included. The estimated average is about BD120.

Basic school bags start at around BD3, while branded bags can cost more than BD20. Notebooks, pens and other stationery range from BD10 to BD30, while uniforms, shoes and sportswear can add another BD25 to BD70. The final bill depends on the child’s year group, school requirements and what parents choose to buy.

The Education Ministry has worked with shops and companies to provide pupils with vouchers and discounts on school supplies, clothes, computers and other services.

MP Mohsen Al Asbool told The Daily Tribune that ministry teams had spent recent months securing offers from companies, traders and shops ahead of the new school year.

‘The vouchers and discounts on school supplies, clothes, computers and other services have helped ease the pressure on families,’ he said.

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- MOHSEN AL ASBOOL, MP

Mr Al Asbool said families differed in their ability to use the offers and supported allowing those who did not need their vouchers to pass them to households that would benefit.

For some private-school families, books can significantly increase the bill.

Zahra Riyadh, whose two children attend a private school, said she spends around BD200 on uniforms, bags, shoes, lunch boxes and stationery before buying books.

Books and study booklets then cost about BD200 for each child, she said.

Her children also have their own preferences. Her son wants Spider-Man school gear, while her daughter prefers Barbie.



School bags line the shelves as families shop for the new term

‘They look for certain themes that make them excited about school, so finding everything can be a little tiring, especially when the children are picky,’ Mrs Riyadh said.

Some parents are also crossing the Causeway in search of lower prices.

Ahmed Isa travelled to Saudi Arabia to buy supplies for his son, who is starting Grade One at a government school. He said he spent around BD30 on stationery and another BD30 on a bag and lunch box.

‘The books are heavy, so I had to buy a bag that makes it easier for him to carry and pull,’ he said.

Monthly costs add further pressure. Private school transport typically costs BD25 to BD50 per month per pupil, depending on distance, trips and service. Private lessons can cost from BD15 a month for one subject, with three subjects around BD45 and four about BD60.

Some retailers are offering



Stationery shelves packed with back-to-school supplies

discounts. One bag surveyed fell from BD19 to BD14, while another dropped from BD7 to BD4.5.

Retailers said prices had changed little, but shipping delays had affected supply. Some importers who previously sourced school goods from China and Thailand have turned to Gulf markets such as Dubai because of delivery problems.

For many families, the school bill does not end when the bag is packed, with transport and tuition adding regular monthly expenses after the new term begins.

Proposal seeks to recruit jobseekers and retirees for student transport

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A national transport scheme using qualified jobseekers, retirees and housewives to drive pupils and university students has been proposed as a way to cut family costs and give Bahrainis a new source of income.

MP Dr Muneer Suroor has called for a regulated co-operative model that would bring citizens into the student transport trade, with both drivers and cars required to meet safety, health and technical rules.

He said the scheme would build on transport work already taking place rather than add another layer of rules.

‘Taking children to schools and universities is a daily need for many families, while we have citizens looking for work or extra income,’ Dr Suroor said.

‘Why not bring the two needs together in an organised and safe model that benefits both sides?’

Under his proposal, drivers could be grouped by neighbourhood, school or university, allowing several trips to be planned around the same areas.

Dr Suroor said this could cut the number of cars on the road at busy school times, make journeys work better and bring down what families pay.

Parents could also use an app to see the driver and car assigned to their children, ar-



“Our aim is not to compete with existing transport companies”

- DR MUNEER SUROOR, MP

range payments, follow trips and rate the service.

Drivers would have to meet safety and fitness rules, while cars would need to pass the required technical checks.

Training and start-up help could be offered to Bahrainis who want to enter the trade.

Dr Suroor said private firms and the relevant state bodies could work together on the scheme without placing a heavy running cost on the public purse.

‘Our aim is not to compete with existing transport companies,’ he said. ‘It is to widen the market, organise it and give citizens the chance to take part in it and earn from it.’

He added: ‘Every service need in society can, with good organisation, be turned into an economic opportunity for citizens.’

Dr Suroor also praised work by the relevant authorities to license private and individual transport services and raise safety standards.

From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Two Men Face Kidnapping, Robbery Charges

The High Criminal Court has begun hearing the case of two 34-year-old men accused of kidnapping and unlawfully detaining two people, assaulting them and robbing one victim of his phone at knifepoint.

The incident began in Salmabad when the first defendant lured a 42-year-old Bangladeshi driver to a meeting. The two defendants then assaulted him and forced him into their vehicle. His colleague was also allegedly assaulted when he tried to intervene.

The first defendant then threatened the victim with a knife, took his phone, and used it to contact a 34-year-old Russian woman to obtain her location.

The woman later arrived in Al Hoora after receiving a message from the victim’s phone. She was assaulted and forced into the vehicle before being taken to the first defendant’s home, where she remained until the police arrived.

Security footage supported the victims’ accounts, while police recovered the first victim’s phone

from the first defendant. Both defendants also admitted participating in parts of the incident during questioning.

The Public Prosecution charged the men with robbery by force, kidnapping, unlawful detention through force and threats of serious harm, and assault.

The court adjourned the case until September 13 to allow the first defendant’s defence to present its arguments. Both defendants remain in custody.

Doctor Faces Trial Over Woman’s Death

The First High Criminal Court heard the case of a doctor accused of causing the death of a Bahraini woman through alleged medical negligence in treating her breast cancer.

The Public Prosecution alleged that the doctor failed to conduct required tests—including a core biopsy and lymph-node biopsy—to properly assess the cancer’s stage before surgery and neglected to provide radiotherapy after breast-conserving surgery.

The woman first discovered



a breast lump in 2021. After undergoing surgery, the cancer recurred in 2022 and later spread to her lungs, bones, head and liver. She died in May 2024 after her condition deteriorated rapidly.

A technical committee from the National Health Regulatory Authority (NHRA) concluded by majority that medical errors had been committed by the doctor.

The defence argued that the patient refused several recommended procedures and treatments, including a core biopsy, PET-CT scan, oncology referral, chemotherapy, radiotherapy and hormonal therapy. The doctor said these refusals were documented in the medical records.

The court set September 13 for the defence to present its pleadings.