

# Green concerns

Southern Council backs ban on damas trees in residential areas

● Residents complain of infrastructure harm caused by Conocarpus trees

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The Southern Municipal Council has backed a proposal to ban damas trees (Conocarpus) from homes and residential neighbourhoods in the Southern Governorate.

The council will write to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture to consider introducing the restriction.

Councillors approved the proposal at their meeting yesterday.

## Vote

It was submitted by council member Abdullah Darraj, and passed by unanimous vote.

“Despite their benefits, we have received many complaints from residents,” Darraj told the council as he presented the case for a ban on planting the trees in housing areas.

The proposal focused on the tree’s roots, saying they tend



“Their roots cause major damage to the infrastructure of buildings, homes, roads, pavements and sewage networks, because they spread in search of water.”

— ABDULLAH DARRAJ, SOUTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

to spread thickly and sideways rather than growing deep.

## Pattern

The study said this pattern can damage infrastructure, with roots able to break into



Damas trees are blamed for roads and sewage damage

fresh-water pipes, sewage lines, and electricity and telephone cables, and in some cases push through rock and reinforced concrete in search of water, affecting roads, streets and pavements.

“Their roots cause major



The tree’s roots tend to spread thickly and sideways rather than growing deep.

saying this leads to dirt building up on streets, pavements and soil and affects the look of neighbourhoods.

## Harmful

It said the tree can draw insects and offer shelter for harmful reptiles such as snakes, can alter soil properties in ways that make it less suitable for other plants, grows quickly into uncultivated areas, and uses large amounts of water.

The council’s letter to the minister will ask for the matter to be reviewed, with a view to banning the planting of damas trees (Conocarpus) in homes and residential areas across the Southern Governorate.

## Youth Path Carnival highlights creativity and ambition

● Event on 25 March

Hasan Barakat  
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The Ministry of Youth Affairs has announced the Youth Path Car Carnival as part of Bahrain’s National Youth Day celebrations, marked each year on 25 March, with the carnival set to take place during the month.

The Ministry said the event reflects the Kingdom’s confidence in its youth and invites institutions and organisations to join a national showcase that captures the spirit of creativity, ambition, and modern Bahraini pride.

## Innovation

Participation criteria have been issued for the Youth Path, encouraging teams to design innovative and interactive floats or platforms that feel fresh, youthful, and impossible to ignore.

The Ministry called for designs that blend originality with national pride and reflect one or more themes such as tech-



Enriching heritage with modern vision of Bahraini identity

The Youth Path aims to turn the carnival into a live showcase of Bahraini talent where culture, creativity, and sustainability meet.

nology, the environment, space, or a modern vision of Bahraini identity, stressing that innovation should shape the work from

the first idea to the final presentation.

National elements are man-

atory, with teams required to

incorporate Bahrain’s symbols, colours, and visual heritage through creative choices that can include media, fashion, and design details.

The Ministry said the goal is to create a unified look that strengthens belonging and pride as the procession moves through

the carnival route.

## Requirements

Organisers stressed that entries must comply with safety requirements and traffic dimensions to ensure smooth participation.

They underlined the need for structural stability and safe materials, warning against any installations that could endanger participants or spectators.

The Ministry also encouraged the use of recycled materials in decoration as part of a wider push towards sustainability.

Teams must meet submission and participation deadlines, attend preparation sessions, and coordinate closely with organisers on execution.

Participants are also expected to handle key logistics such as display vehicles, energy sources, and sound systems to ensure the presentation runs smoothly on the day.

The Ministry said the Youth Path aims to turn the carnival into a live showcase of Bahraini talent where culture, creativity, and sustainability meet, highlighting young people as partners in shaping the future.

Drivers jailed and fined for illegal street race in Zallaq

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The Attorney General, Head of the Traffic Prosecution, announced that the Minor Criminal Court has handed down sentences in a case involving an illegal street race.

The court ruled that the first defendant will serve one month in prison and pay a fine of BD1,000, while the second defendant will serve six months in prison and pay a BD1,000 fine.

Both vehicles involved in the incident were also ordered to be confiscated.

## Defendants

The defendants were charged with conducting a race on a public road without a license, driving without caution, endangering lives and property, and exceeding the legal speed limit.

According to official reports, the Public Prosecution received a complaint from the General Directorate of Traffic regarding a high-speed race between two vehicles on Bahrain Bay Street in the Zallaq area.

The drivers allegedly exceeded the legally prescribed speed in a manner that posed a serious risk to both lives and property.

## Apprehension

Investigations were immediately launched, leading to the apprehension of both drivers.

During questioning, they admitted to the charges.

Following a thorough review of the evidence, the Public Prosecution referred the case to the competent court, which issued the sentencing as described.

## Bahrain Teachers College renamed

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In implementation of the directives of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the University of Bahrain announced the renaming of the Bahrain Teachers College to the Mohammed Jaber Al Ansari College for Teachers, in recognition of Dr. Al Ansari’s pioneering intellectual and cultural role at the national and Arab levels, as well as his distinguished contributions across various fields of knowledge.

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, expressed his appreciation for the royal directive.

## NOTICE

With regard to the license cancellation

of “Casheer Payment Services Co W.L.L”

With reference to the Resolution of the Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain No. (1) of 2026 pertaining to the cancellation of the Ancillary Service Provider - Card Processing and payment Service Provider license of “Casheer Payment Services Co W.L.L” issued on 15 Rajab 1447H, corresponding to 4 January 2026, the Central Bank of Bahrain hereby provides notice that the Ancillary Service Provider - Card Processing and payment Service Provider license of “Casheer Payment Services Co W.L.L” issued on 18th February 2015, registered under commercial registration No. 91873 has been cancelled, with effect from the date of issuing and publication of the above resolution in the Official Gazette.

## DANAT registration for Gem-A Gemmology Foundation Program

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The Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (DANAT) has opened registration for the internationally recognised Gem-A Foundation Certificate in Gemmology, accredited by the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem-A), with the programme

set to commence in February.

As the world’s oldest gemmology education body, Gem-A has trained generations of gemologists across the globe for over a century.

Its Foundation Certificate is widely regarded as a gateway into the global gem and jewellery industry, offering rigorous academic grounding and prac-



tical exposure.

This initiative reaffirms DANAT’s commitment to strengthening Bahrain’s position as a global hub for gemstone expertise.

Its launch comes at a time when demand is growing for internationally accredited professionals, driven by the expansion of the luxury jewellery industry.