

Noise nightmare

Arad residents seek relief over dawn roadworks and blocked access

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Neighbours in Block 244, Arad, say months of roadworks on Roads 4403 and 4402 have brought daily noise and blocked access, with crews starting as early as 5 am, including weekends and public holidays.

The works to lay rainwater drains and sewer lines have, they say, dragged on and shut routes to homes and garages.

Residents report the din of heavy machinery from before dawn, which they say has been hard on older people and children, and on those who need rest before work.

“The scheme is in its last stretch, with trenches due to be backfilled with sand next week to ease traffic, while road surfacing will follow later for technical reasons tied to the order of works.”

- AHMED AL MOQAHWI, MUHARRAQ MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Digging

They add that after digging the contractor has left spoil and



materials piled outside houses, kicking up dust and making it harder to move about.

According to neighbours, the

works began in Ramadan and are still going.

They say the project engineer told them he holds a permit to begin early and to work on rest days and public holidays.

Complaints

Muharrraq municipal council member Ahmed Al Moqahwi said he met the road engineer to discuss the complaints and asked for the job to be finished quickly.

He said the scheme is in its last stretch, with trenches due to be backfilled with sand next week to ease traffic, while road surfacing will follow later for technical reasons tied to the order of works.

Bahraini Student Excels Globally

IIT Madras graduate shines in record time

● **PhD completed in 4.5 years**

● **Research uses AI in drug discovery**

● **Schooling roots traced to Bahrain**

Mahir Haneef
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Dr. Fathima Ridha

Dr. Fathima Ridha, who began her academic journey in Bahrain, has emerged as one of the fastest-rising researchers in bioinformatics after completing both her Master's and PhD at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in just 4.5 years.

A former student of the Asian School and New Millennium School, Fathima pursued a Direct PhD programme at IIT Madras, India's top-ranked engineering institute, after her Bachelor's degree. She earlier secured a Gold Medal in BTech Biotechnology from NIT Calicut.

Record feat

Her doctoral research focused on developing machine learning and AI-based computational tools to study membrane protein complexes, which are among the most important drug targets. The work contributes to better understanding of disease mechanisms and can help guide the design of more effective therapies.

Prestigious honours

With over 10 publications in high-impact peer-reviewed journals, Fathima has presented her findings at conferences in Europe, Japan and Korea. She has won awards including the Royal Society of Chemistry Poster Prize and Best Flash Talk, and was also named an Institute Research Awardee



IIT Madras is ranked as India's number one engineering institute by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for eight consecutive years.

in 2025.

Her exceptional performance was recognised with the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF), India's highest research fellowship for doctoral candidates.

Bahrain connection

Proud parents Mohammed Kutty Karuvanthodikayil and Babitha P.C. said her success reflects the strong academic foundation she gained in Bahrain. Her siblings, Ameena Rana and Rishal Mohammed, were also students of the Asian School.

Dr. Fathima's rapid rise in academia, from Bahrain's classrooms to India's premier institute, has been hailed as an inspiration for the next generation of scientists.

KCA Announces 25th Indian Talent Scan 2025



KCA officials and members at a press conference

Pradeep Puravankara
TDT | Manama

The Kerala Catholic Association (KCA) has announced the launch of the 25th edition of its annual cultural festival, “KCA-BFC The Indian Talent Scan 2025.”

The event, which celebrates art, literature, and performing arts among children, is open to all Indian children in Bahrain and will run from October to December.

Organizing committee

A new organizing committee has been formed, with Mrs.

Simi Leo making history as the first-ever Chairperson of the Talent Scan. She will be supported by Vice Chairmen Mr. K. M. Thomas and Mr. Joyal Jose, and Vice Chairpersons Mrs. Simi Asok and Mrs. Pretty Roy.

The advisory board will be led by Mr. Varghese Joseph, with Mr. Roy C. Antony, Mr. Sevi Mathunny, and Mr. Aruldas Thomas serving as members. Registration for the events opened on September 4 and will close on September 30, 2025. This year's edition will feature new events, with a special focus on team-based activities aimed at fostering personality develop-



The event is open to all Indian children in Bahrain and will run from October to December.

ment. Competitions will begin on October 17

The event offers over 180 in-

dividual and team events, with awards including the prestigious Kalathilakam & Kalaprabha Awards.

Children born between October 1, 2007, and September 30, 2020, are eligible to participate and will be divided into five age groups. The event is a key platform for showcasing and nurturing the talents of young Indians in Bahrain. For more details contact 36268208

A press conference was held at the KCA, where details were shared by KCA President James John, General Secretary Vinu Christy, and other organizing committee members.

Asian faces trafficking charge

● **Hearing set for 9 September**

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An Asian defendant has been referred to the High Criminal Court on a human trafficking charge, with a hearing on 9 September, following a Public Prosecution investigation into claims the victim's passport was seized and she was confined and threatened in a flat.

The Public Prosecution said the case began with a report from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Directorate at the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Evidence, based on the victim's complaint.

She said she came to Bahrain after a job offer; on arrival, her passport was taken, she was held in a flat and threatened to force her into unlawful acts.

According to a statement issued yesterday, prosecu-



tors started work as soon as the report was received and first took the victim's detailed statement.

Measures

As part of the measures used in such cases, she was placed in the shelter run by the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The Prosecution said legal steps were taken against the suspect and police were tasked with the necessary enquiries to establish the circumstances, including hearing from the officer who conducted them.

On completion of the investigation and in light of the evidence, the defendant was sent for trial before the High Criminal Court, with a hearing set for 9 September.

Bahrain stands out in Gulf dealmaking in Q1

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Bahrain stood out in Gulf dealmaking in the first half of 2025, anchored by a \$693 million move in which Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power bought ENGIE's stakes in power and water assets in Bahrain and Kuwait, a report by Kuwait Financial Centre 'Markaz' said.

Across the GCC, activity eased. Markaz counted 72 transactions in the half, down 22 per cent year on year.

The UAE led with 43 deals, followed by Saudi Arabia with 15. By 30 June, Bahrain accounted for 10 per cent of deals announced and in progress, with four transactions holding steady through the period.

Purchase

The ACWA Power purchase covers Bahrain's Al Dur Power & Water Company, Al Ezzel

Power Company, and Hidd Power Company, and Kuwait's Shamal Az-Zour Al-Oula Power and Water Company.

Foreign direct investment into Bahrain came through a single deal in H1 2025, compared with two a year earlier. That is a 50 per cent drop.

Bahraini groups were active across borders. Foulath Holding bought a 49 per cent stake in SULB Company and United Steel Company for \$175 million.

Holding

GFH Financial Group added 15.63 per cent to its holding in Seef Properties, taking its stake to 27.98 per cent.

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) acquired HSBC's retail banking operations in the Kingdom. Investcorp signed an agreement to acquire Italian firm Epipoli.

BSA global space challenge hackathon

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The Bahrain Space Agency (BSA) announced the opening of registration for programmers, scientists, designers, storytellers, technicians, entrepreneurs, artists, space enthusiasts and students of all ages and nationalities to take part in the eighth edition of the International Space Apps Challenge Hackathon.

This annual international competition is organised by the BSA under the supervision of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), in cooperation with the Bahrain Society of Engineers.

It will take place at the University of Bahrain campus in Sakhir and the Bahrain Polytechnic campus in Isa Town, from October 4-5. Those wishing to register may do so by visiting the websites: (Isa Town)

The concept of the hackathon is to encourage participants to devise innovative ideas to present space data in the form of applications, games, or other technological solutions.

[https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/2025/local-events/isa-town/or \(Sakhir\) \(https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/2025/local-events/sakhir/\)](https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/2025/local-events/isa-town/or (Sakhir) (https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/2025/local-events/sakhir/))

The BSA highlighted that the Hackathon is open to participants worldwide, who will form creative teams and use NASA's open data to compete in developing solutions to a range of challenges facing the space industry today.