

They should not be left alone

Parliament supports funding lifeline for day-care centres serving senior citizens

● Proposal calls for restoring annual government funding for elderly care centres.

● Centres provide daytime care, social support and community engagement programmes for senior citizens.

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A funding lifeline could be on the way for Bahrain's 13 elderly day-care centres after MPs backed a proposal to restore annual government support for the facilities.



“These centres play a central role in providing daytime and social care to senior citizens in the Kingdom”

MOHAMMED AL OLAIWI, MP

Parliament's Services Committee unanimously approved the proposal, which calls on the government to direct the Ministry of Social Development to reinstate yearly financial aid for centres caring for older parents and senior citizens across the Kingdom.

The proposal was submitted by MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi, who said the loss of funding had left the centres under increasing pressure as operating costs rise and demand for services grows.

He said the aid was needed to ensure the centres could continue providing care, health, family and social services to a group that represents an important part of Bahraini society.

Mr Al Olaiwi noted that the 13 centres and societies had continued their work despite the suspension of government support years ago, providing care, social assistance and humanitarian services to elderly citizens.

He said the centres give older people a place suited to their needs without cut-

ting them off from family and social life by placing them in residential homes. Instead, they help senior citizens remain part of family and community life while benefiting from programmes tailored to their needs.

Their work includes care programmes, activities, workshops, family support, health services and social initiatives, while operating through a community partnership model that brings together government bodies, civil society organisations and the private sector.

Mr Al Olaiwi said the centres also allow society to continue benefiting from the experience and contributions of older citizens, helping them remain active

and engaged in their communities.

In comments submitted to the committee, Social Development Minister Osama Al Alawi said the ministry appreciated the proposal and the concern it reflected for services aimed at older people.

He said the ministry was reviewing support provided to civil society organisations to ensure it complies with legal, administrative and financial regulations, while guaranteeing that public funds are distributed fairly and achieve their intended social impact.

Mr Al Alawi added that the ministry remained committed to working with Parliament on initiatives that serve citizens, strengthen social services and ensure their long-term sustainability.



Hunt for parking in Historic Muharraq

Mohammed Darwish
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Muharraq Municipal Council has reviewed plans to organise parking in Historic Muharraq and called for faster progress on the Dair and Samahej coast project.

The council, chaired by Abdulaziz Al Naar, discussed a number of service and development issues and followed up on earlier recommendations concerning public facilities across the governorate.

Members said the parking plan was needed to support His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's Historic Muharraq project, which has helped showcase the city's heritage and attracted growing cultural and tourism interest.

Council-
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Abdulaziz Al Naar, Chairman of Muharraq Municipal Council

stressed that improved infrastructure and basic services must keep pace with the area's development, including the provision of sufficient parking for residents, businesses, visitors and heritage sites.

Muharraq Souq was highlighted as a key

concern due to the increasing number of shoppers and tourists visiting the area.

The meeting also reviewed the latest developments on the Dair and Samahej coast project, with councillors urging the relevant authorities to accelerate implementation.

Members said the waterfront scheme would provide additional public space for residents and improve access to the sea, enhancing recreational opportunities across the governorate. The council also welcomed royal directives that led to a number of beaches and coastal sites being opened for public use.

Councillors noted that residents of Dair and Samahej were closely following the project because of the facilities and

amenities expected to be introduced along the waterfront.

Mr Al Naar said the council would continue to monitor projects and recommendations that represent priorities for Muharraq residents.



Muharraq is regarded as the cradle of Bahrain's traditional culture, known for its historic houses, souqs and architecture.



Northern Governor discusses support for autism community

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Northern Governor Hassan Abdullah Mohammed Al Madani has reaffirmed the governorate's commitment to supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families during a meeting with officials and members of the Bahrain Autism Society.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Northern Governor Brigadier Abdullah Ali Rashid Maanter and focused on ways to strengthen cooperation and address challenges facing people with autism and their families.

Mr Al Madani praised the Bahrain Autism Society for

its voluntary and humanitarian efforts, highlighting its role in raising awareness and supporting individuals with autism across the Kingdom.

He also commended the ongoing partnership between the governorate and the society, stressing the importance of continued collaboration to enhance services and support programmes.

For his part, the head of the Bahrain Autism Society thanked the Northern Governorate for its support and expressed the society's commitment to expanding cooperation and launching further joint initiatives.

Kerala and Puducherry tourism walls unveiled at India Embassy

● Showcases tourism attractions, cultural heritage and signature products from the two Indian regions

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The Embassy of India in Bahrain inaugurated dedicated Kerala and Puducherry Tourism and One District One Product (ODOP) walls at its Consular Hall, highlighting the tourism potential, cultural heritage and unique products of the two Indian regions.

Ambassador of India to Bahrain, H.E. Vinod K. Jacob, unveiled the walls in the presence of members of the Kerala community in the Kingdom. The displays feature prominent tourist attractions and a range of products identified under In-



dia's One District One Product (ODOP) initiative.

Addressing the gathering in Malayalam and Tamil, Ambassador Jacob said the month-long focus on Kerala and Puducherry would provide Indians

in Bahrain and friends of India with an opportunity to discover the rich cultural heritage, tourism offerings and commercial prospects of both regions.

Counsellor Rajiv Kumar Mishra delivered remarks in French, reflecting Puducherry's longstanding cultural and historical connections with France.

The initiative forms part of the Embassy's 'Focus State/ Union Territory' programme, under which a selected Indian state or

union territory is promoted in Bahrain for a period of one to two months. Previous editions have showcased Rajasthan, Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra and Goa.

Often referred to as "God's Own Country," Kerala is renowned for its scenic backwaters, beaches, hill stations and lush landscapes. The state is also known for its high literacy rate, quality healthcare, vibrant cultural traditions such as Kathakali and Mohiniyattam, Ayurveda, traditional boat races and distinctive cuisine. It is among India's leading producers of spices, rubber and coconuts.

Puducherry, meanwhile, is celebrated for its French colonial heritage, reflected in its architecture, cuisine and culture. Attractions such as the French Quarter, colonial-era buildings, beaches, Sri Aurobindo Ashram and Auroville

continue to draw visitors seeking culture, spirituality and sustainable living experiences.

The Embassy also highlighted Bharat Innovates 2026, a flagship initiative of India's Ministry of Education, which is scheduled to take place in Nice, France, from June 14 to 16. Promotional materials and banners for the event were displayed at the Consular Hall.

Ambassador Jacob thanked Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) for supporting the Embassy in sourcing the ODOP products showcased during the exhibition. BKS also organised colourful cultural performances and presented a variety of traditional cuisines as part of the inauguration celebrations.

