

Spring revival

Plan approved to restore Ain Al Raha natural water sources after years of neglect

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A revival plan for the neglect-hit ancient Ain Al Raha spring on Sitra won approval from the Capital Trustees Board yesterday, with the file sent to the competent bodies to take it forward.

The proposal was put forward by council member Mohammed Al Abbas, who said the spring was among Bahrain's oldest natural water sources and had suffered from neglect and environmental damage.

"Ain Al Raha is one of the oldest and most important natural springs in Bahrain," Al Abbas told the council. "Due to neglect and environmental factors, the spring has become threatened with disappearance."

The scheme centres on restoring the spring itself, starting with clearing the basin and removing built-up sediment, then strengthening its walls using materials meant to preserve its archaeological character.

Study

It also calls for a study into restoring natural water flow, or creating an interim option that mirrors the spring's earlier form.

Around the site, the proposal sets out plans for a heritage park with walking paths, shaded seating and rest areas, and planting to recreate the spring's older setting, when it was surrounded by palm trees.

The plan also calls for low lighting suited to the site's historic character, CCTV cameras to deter vandalism, and a low heritage-style fence to mark the



The Ain Al Raha spring has suffered from neglect and environmental damage spring's boundary and protect it without spoiling the view.

Workshops

An information centre is proposed to display photographs and documents on Ain Al Raha and other old springs in Sitra and across Bahrain, with the option of school workshops on the country's water heritage.

Al Abbas said the project was meant to serve residents and visitors, and could support small local ventures linked to the site, such as heritage crafts, a traditional café and guided tours.

"This project represents an important step to revive Ain Al Raha and protect Bahrain's

natural and historical heritage," he said.

Support facilities in the proposal include public toilets near the site, parking designed not to harm the surrounding environment, and the option of small heritage kiosks selling local goods.

The Board has discussed the site before.

Plot

In December 2017, it approved reclassifying the plot at Ain Al Raha, recorded as Property No. 06019307 in Sitra's Block 603, to recreational zoning in preparation for a public park.

The decision was then referred on an urgent basis to the



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Urban Planning and Development Authority.

In a response relayed in July 2018, the authority said the plot fell within "unplanned areas" under the approved maps at the time, while a detailed plan for the wider area was being prepared to adjust land status and create a fuller road network.

Services

It added that the location of Ain Al Raha had been preserved and that services were being provided to support it as a future public park within the plan under study.

Under the current classification maps, the site is listed within an archaeological area.

Three Asians held over 'dead drop' drug case



High Criminal Court hearing set for Sunday

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Three Asian men accused of running a drug 'dead drop' scheme in Bahrain are due before the High Criminal Court next Sunday, with the court ordering they remain in custody.

Prosecutors say the case began during a security sweep aimed at people in breach of residency rules.

An officer stopped the first defendant and asked for his ID.

He replied that it was at his home, so the officer went with him to the address.

Abnormal state

Inside, police found two other men, the second and third defendants, who were said to be in an abnormal state.

An officer also saw a wrap on the floor believed to contain narcotics.

Searches then followed, first of the men, then of the home itself.

Investigators say they seized wraps and capsules containing suspected drugs, along with bags holding other narcotic substances.

They also found A4 sheets soaked with drug material,

a travel bag containing tools used to divide up the substances, and an accounts notebook thought to be used to record drug quantities and sales.

Admission

The first and second defendants admitted during prosecution questioning that they possessed the drugs for both trafficking and personal use, according to the file.

The first defendant told investigators the second and third worked with him to distribute narcotics through a dead drop system.

A forensic extraction of the third defendant's phone is said to show locations marked with signs and symbols, alongside references to bottles containing liquid substances and capsules containing a white powder.

Notebook

A handwriting and document expert concluded the seized notebook was used in the sale and preparation of narcotics, and that it was written by the first defendant.

The Public Prosecution alleges the three were part of an organised network that brings drugs into Bahrain, divides them into smaller quantities, and distributes them using dead drops for Asian nationals living abroad in return for money.

Third District logged 346 complaints up to December 2025

132 raised through 'Tawasul'

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Paperwork piled up in the Capital Governorate's Third District over a two-year span, with 346 complaints and proposals filed from 1 January 2024 until December 2025, a report presented to the Capital Trustees Board said.

Residents lodged the largest

share, at 141 submissions, followed by 132 raised through the National System for Suggestions and Complaints, known as 'Tawasul'.

The Board also covered 24 site visits and 36 requests submitted by board members, along with 10 submissions from civil society bodies and three from MPs representing the Capital area.

The report said the district covers 17 residential blocks across Sanabis, Daih, Jidhafs, Karbabad, Seef District, Al Qal'ah and Nurana.

It also includes five public parks: Sanabis Park, Karbabad



Capital Trustees Board meeting in progress

Park, Daih Park, Seef Park and Jidhafs Park.

Most cases were routed to works-related bodies.

Works Affairs received 56 per cent of submissions, while 37 per cent went to the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and

Agriculture and 1 per cent to the General Directorate of Traffic, according to the report.

A breakdown of requests sent

to the Ministry of Works showed 114 submissions in total.

Road and pavement maintenance led the list with 44 requests, followed by 40 tied to sewerage.

Another 16 involved traffic signs, eight concerned speed humps, four asked for new or planned parking spaces, and two sought the installation of poles and barriers.

On outcomes, the report said 42 per cent of requests had been completed, 38 per cent had received replies, and 20 per cent remained under review.



Support for cancer patients

The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) carried out a community-based humanitarian initiative titled "My Strength Is Greater Than Every Challenge" under the Youth Support pillar and the Youth Empowerment Program and Community Initiatives. The initiative was implemented by the youth team Future Makers in cooperation with the Oncology Center at King Hamad University Hospital. It aimed to fulfill the wish of the Ambassador of Hope, cancer survivor Ruqayya Ashkanani, by providing psychological and moral support to oncology patients and reinforcing values of hope and strength in facing health challenges, reflecting the spirit of social solidarity and humanitarian work.

Capital Governorate Majlis



The attendees at the Capital Governorate Majlis extended profound gratitude to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the Royal Decree designating 2026 as the "Year of Isa Al Kabeer". They commended this tribute, which honours the founder of the modern state and architect of its institutional renaissance, the late His Highness Isa Al Kabeer and the enduring national legacy of wisdom, justice, and civic loyalty. During the meeting, chaired by His Excellency Capital Governor Shaikh Khalid bin Hamoud bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, the attendees highlighted the designation's significance in commemorating the foundational institutional development of the modern state.