

# Janahi Pushes Smart Vision

- Smart city plan revived
- Economic balance in focus
- Housing backlog highlighted

TDT | Manama

A parliamentary drive to re-vitalise Bahrain’s capital is gaining momentum, with MP Mohamed Husain Janahi linking the push for smart city development to long-standing housing demands and wider efforts to enhance urban sustainability.

The Capital Governorate representative said he is leading a movement within the Council of Representatives to transform the capital into a smart city aligned with international standards, while reviving local markets currently grappling with summer downturns.

Janahi underscored the need for infrastructure upgrades, particularly in street lighting, public parks, and recreational spaces. He noted that six parks in the governorate were in urgent need of maintenance, while proposals for new community halls and public amenities were under consideration.

## Housing and planning

But Janahi made it clear that his proposals extend beyond beautification efforts. He tied the success of the smart city vision to the resolution of endur-



MP Mohamed Husain Janahi

ing challenges such as delayed housing projects and evolving workforce structures.

He also pointed to concerns about certain investment models lacking transparency, suggesting they may be contributing to economic imbalance in the capital and calling for stronger regulatory alignment to support sustainable development.

Janahi urged renewed momentum on the Hooraa housing project and a review of pending applications dating back to the early 2000s, noting that addressing these legacy cases would support broader planning and social policy goals.

As part of his wider proposal to enhance livability and urban management, Janahi also recommended reinstating motorcycle patrols and intensifying efforts to address public misconduct.

His initiative, he said, is not limited to infrastructure development but seeks to improve quality of life through a balanced mix of policy reform, urban renewal, and greater civic engagement.

# Support beyond family finances

MPs consider plan to extend Kingdom’s social aid for university students over 18

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Parliament’s Services Committee is examining a proposal to amend Bahrain’s Social Security Law.

The plan would allow university students over 18 to continue receiving state support regardless of their family’s financial situation.

The draft seeks to remove a clause in Article 6 that currently blocks students from receiving assistance if they have a financially able relative who is legally required to support them.

Under the proposed wording, any student working towards their first university degree would remain eligible for aid while enrolled, regardless of household backing.

MP Jalal Kadhem, one of the key sponsors of the proposal, said the current restriction has led some families to pull their children out of higher education, even when they are academically able and willing to continue.

The amendment would give students the right to support until they complete their de-



Image used for illustrative purposes only



“Encouraging a love of learning from a young age, he added, strengthens a sense of national belonging.”

- MP JALAL KADHEM

gree, so long as they remain in university.

He said the committee is reviewing the proposal now and expects to finish its report early in the next legislative term.

If passed, the change could

help students stay the course and relieve financial strain on families with limited income.

## Education

Kadhem cited examples from Germany and Sweden, where

Any student working towards their first university degree would remain eligible for aid while enrolled, regardless of household backing.

governments support students throughout their education.

Such approaches, he said, are built on the belief that learning offers the clearest path to stability.

Failing to support education, he warned, may lead to a rise in crime and harmful behaviour.

Encouraging a love of learning from a young age, he added, strengthens a sense of national belonging.

He said funding the measure would fall to the Cabinet, which is responsible for allocating public resources and deciding how to provide support to eligible students.

According to the explanatory note, the proposal aims to develop a generation ready to contribute across a wide range of fields, from trades to academia.

# Indian Man Dies Flying Home

Pradeep Puravankara  
TDT | Manama

A 27-year-old Indian expatriate from Kerala tragically died on board a flight from Bahrain to Kozhikode on Tuesday after reportedly falling ill mid-air while travelling home for medical treatment.

Muhammad Afsal, a native of Punnathala in Malappuram district, had boarded the flight earlier in the day. During the journey, he experienced discomfort, and after landing at Calicut International Airport, he was rushed to a nearby pri-



Muhammad Afsal

vate hospital. Despite efforts by medical staff, he was declared dead shortly after arrival.

Afsal had moved to Bahrain

just two months ago and was working at a cold storage facility. According to sources close to the family, he had been suffering from fever for several days prior to the trip and had visited a private clinic for consultation.

Concerned over his health not improving, Afsal reportedly decided to return home for further medical care. It was during this journey that his condition deteriorated.

The sudden passing has left his family and the local expatriate community in deep grief. Funeral arrangements are under way in his hometown.

# Bahrain Expat’s Son Killed

- Victim aged 28
- Died in Spain accident
- Bahrain family in mourning

TDT | Manama

A 28-year-old Indian man, the son of a Bahrain-based expatriate, has died in a tragic motorbike accident in Spain.

Mervin Thomas Mathew, who was residing in Spain, passed away following the accident earlier this week. He was



Mervin Thomas Mathew

the son of Mathew Thomas, a long-standing Indian community member and social worker in Bahrain.

The Bahrain-based family is reportedly coordinating with Spanish authorities to complete the necessary formalities. Mervin’s death has sent shockwaves through the expatriate community, where his father is widely known for his humanitarian efforts.

Details of the crash remain unclear, and authorities in Spain are continuing their investigation into the cause of the incident.

Funeral plans are expected to be announced once the legal process in Spain is complete. Meanwhile, expatriates in Bahrain have expressed their condolences and support for the grieving family.



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HIC Approval No 7 / 2025 / م.ج.ع.د