

120 Boats Face Removal Beside 20-Year Idle Plot

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Mohammed Darwish

About 120 licensed boats kept on land at Muharraq Port have been issued notices or told to leave while a 3,790-square-metre plot beside them, handed to an investor for a boat-owners' scheme, has sat fenced and empty since 2007.

Muharraq Municipal Council chairman AbdulAziz Al Naar said the land should now be taken back, arguing that fishermen were being squeezed for space while the promised scheme had never been built.

'It has been fenced since 2007 and no one has benefited from it,' he said. 'Neither the investor nor the fishermen have benefited. How can land remain like this? Where is the oversight?'

Al Naar warned that forcing boats out without giving owners somewhere else to go would simply create another problem.

He said many would end up along Shaikh Khalifa Highway and



Airport Avenue or outside homes, leaving boat trailers piling up in residential neighbourhoods.

Owners could then face another round of violations because boat trailers are not allowed to be parked in residential areas, he said.

Around 500 boats are based at the port, on land and in the water, according to Al Naar. About 120 licensed boats kept on land have been issued notices or told to clear the area, while around 20 are among the first facing removal.

He said Muharraq Port caters for roughly 70pc of Muharraq's fishermen and boat owners.

A Muharraq Municipal Council site map identifies the fenced land beside the port measuring 3,790.633 square metres.

Al Naar said the plot was given to a Bahraini investor around 2007 for a scheme meant to serve boat owners.

Nothing has been built.

'From 2007 until today, he has done nothing, and you are still leav-



ing it with him,' Al Naar said. 'Why has the land not been taken back?'

He called for the agreement to be ended and the plot made available for another scheme, including parking and services for boat owners.

'We are calling for the land to be taken back so it can be opened for investment,' he said.

Al Naar also said the inspection drive was unfair, arguing that licensed, working boats were being singled out while broken and



Abdulaziz Al Naar, Muharraq Municipal Council chairman

rusting craft had been left untouched for years.

'The inspection process is unfair,' he said, adding that the way it was being carried out was provoking fishermen.

He said some boats with valid permits were being issued notices while abandoned craft had remained at the port for five, six or seven years without being removed.

'There are boats that have been broken and abandoned for six or seven years,' he said. 'They were

not fined, removed or dealt with, yet licensed boats are being told to leave.'

Al Naar described the approach as arbitrary, saying owners were being ordered out without marked parking bays, another site or a workable plan for where their boats should go.

'Organise the process. Create parking spaces and put solutions in place,' he said. 'You cannot simply tell them to get out.'

He also questioned towing charges which, he said, could leave owners paying BD80 to private recovery operators rather than a BD20 government fine.

Al Naar said the port needed firmer management and fairer treatment of boat owners, rather than clearing licensed craft while unused land and abandoned boats remained beside them.

He also raised security concerns, saying the port fence had previously been breached and boat equipment stolen.

BCFC Launches "Afaq" Scholarship Programme in partnership with The American University of Bahrain

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Bahrain Commercial Facilities Company (BCFC) has launched "Afaq", a new scholarship programme under its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) agenda, designed to help academically outstanding Bahraini students secure places at leading universities.

True to its name, Afaq, meaning "horizons", the programme opens the door for eligible Bahraini students to pursue an education at institutions of the highest caliber.

Afaq launched through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the American University of Bahrain (AUBH). The signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Abdulla Bukhwa, Chief Executive Officer of BCFC, and



Dr. Wafa Almansoori, Interim President and Provost of AUBH. The partnership underscores BCFC's ongoing commitment to investing in national talent and advancing the development of Bahrain's youth, in line with the Kingdom's human capital

priorities.

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Abdulla Bukhwa, Chief Executive Officer of BCFC, said: "Investing in our nation's youth sits at the heart of our ESG agenda. We believe every talented Bahraini

student deserves an education that opens new horizons, and Afaq is how we act on that belief. The programme identifies high-achieving Bahraini students and supports them through to graduation from an institution of the highest stand-



ing. We are pleased to partner with the American University of Bahrain, which shares that conviction."

For her part, Dr. Wafa Almansoori, Interim President and Provost of the American University of Bahrain, expressed

her appreciation for the cooperation, saying: "We are pleased to collaborate with BCFC on an initiative that opens the horizons of American-model higher education to Bahraini students. It reflects our shared belief that supporting national talent is an investment in the Kingdom's future."

Through Afaq, BCFC reaffirms its commitment to supporting the development of the Bahraini community and contributing to the Kingdom's ongoing education journey. The programme will progressively expand to support a greater number of cohorts through its partnership with the university, broadening their horizons and equipping a new generation with the knowledge and opportunities to contribute to the Kingdom's future workforce and long-term development.

Bhavans Bahrain Indian School Marks 13th Founder's Day



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Bhavans Bahrain Indian School celebrated its 13th Founder's Day on September 17, 2026, with a programme highlighting the school's journey, achievements and commitment to education.

The celebration began with the Bahrain National Anthem, prayer song and Holy Quran recitation, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries.

The programme featured a musical presentation titled Journey of Dreams, an invocation dance and a video showcasing



the school's milestones and accomplishments. Students and teachers also presented dance performances during the event.

Principal Saji Jacob addressed the gathering and spoke about the school's educational journey and continued pursuit of excellence. Director Himanshu Verma also highlighted the contributions of

students, teachers and staff in strengthening the institution's legacy.

The event included awards recognising teachers for their service, with honours presented to educators completing five and 10 years at the school. Teachers who achieved 100 per cent attendance were also felicitated.

Another Milestone in Advanced Urological Surgery



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King Hamad American Mission Hospital has successfully completed an advanced laparoscopic radical nephrectomy on a 34-year-old patient diagnosed with a renal mass.

The procedure was performed by Dr. Raghav Talwar, assisted by Dr. Abdulrahman AlShaikh, marking a milestone in the hospital's development of minimally invasive urological

surgery.

Laparoscopic radical nephrectomy is a technically demanding procedure requiring advanced laparoscopic expertise, precise anatomical dissection and careful surgical technique.

The hospital said the successful procedure reflected the coordination and expertise of the multidisciplinary team involved in the patient's care.

Compared with conventional open surgery, minimally inva-

sive procedures can offer appropriately selected patients potential benefits such as smaller incisions, reduced postoperative discomfort and faster recovery.

The hospital also praised the Urology, Anesthesia, Nursing and Operating Theatre teams for their teamwork and commitment to patient care.

The procedure is part of the hospital's efforts to expand access to modern minimally invasive surgical treatment options in Bahrain.