

No power, no water

Ras Raya jetty, Bahrain's fish hub, left high and dry for 17 years

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Ras Raya jetty in Muharraq, a landing site that supplies most of Bahrain's fish markets, remains without electricity or running water 17 years after its opening.

The jetty, which opened in 2008, was intended to support local fishermen with service buildings and mooring space.

While the buildings were constructed, none are in use due to the absence of power and water connections.

Fishermen say this has left them struggling to maintain their boats, store equipment safely, or even carry out repairs.

Visit

Muharraaq Municipal Council member Fadhil Al Oud, who represents the Sixth Constituency, visited the site to meet fishermen and inspect conditions.

He said the port continues to lack the basics such as lighting, washrooms, drinking water and a mosque.

He called for a budget to be set aside for repairs and service upgrades.

Fishermen from Dair and Samaheej said the jetty's condition affects both their earnings and safety.

Boats

Some have had to move their boats away from the main dock, known locally as 'the jetty', as it



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- FADHIL AL OUD, MUHARRAQ MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

has been submerged for years.

Rising tides, they say, could soon engulf other sections of the port, damaging engines that rely on freshwater cooling.

Others recounted the closure of a small ice and water factory once set up by a private investor.

It allowed fishermen to stock up near the jetty rather than travel to Hidd or further.

But the operation folded, they said, due to the high cost of fuelling diesel generators.

Generators

Since then, some have paid as much as BD20 a day to run their own generators while working.

There are no working storage sheds either.

Earlier attempts by the authorities to install metal cabins failed.

The interiors became unbearably hot, there was no shelter above, and the units were prone to leaks.

Theft

Many fishermen now leave their tools in the open or risk theft.

Several have reported ropes, traps and other gear going missing.

Fishermen have suggested allowing small personal storage cabins and fitting cameras at the jetty's entrance to help reduce theft.

They also called for a review of the current penalties for marine infractions, saying fines starting from BD300 are too high given the nature of their work and income.

Proposal

Al Oud added that he had submitted a proposal four years ago to fix the problem and followed up with the authorities.

The matter, he said, has yet to move.

He said fishermen continue to face daily trouble, and many have been left to work in unsuitable conditions despite the jetty's role in meeting most of the local demand for fish.

Dumistan site added to national marine development plan

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Dumistan's coastal site in Block 1017 has been included in Bahrain's national plan for developing marine landing points, according to a formal response from the Director-General of Marine Resources at the Supreme Council for Environment.

The step follows a proposal submitted by Northern Municipal Council member Zainab Al Durazi, who called for a purpose-built facility to serve the area's fishermen.

The proposal concerns two government-owned plots near the country's western shoreline.

Value

The land, already allocated to Marine Resources, is viewed



Zainab Al Durazi

as having historical and social value and has long been linked to Dumistan's fishing trade.

Al Durazi's proposal was backed unanimously during a regular meeting of the Northern Municipal Council.

The council then wrote to the relevant authorities, including the Marine Resources Directorate, which confirmed the site had been added to the development plan.

opment plan.

Support

She said Dumistan had supported generations of fishermen, yet residents still lack a proper landing point, despite the availability of suitable government land.

Al Durazi added that the proposal responded to repeated calls from locals and aimed to preserve the area's maritime heritage while offering a working base for the fishing community.

The directorate stated that the project's execution depends on approval from higher authorities responsible for carrying out the national programme, which includes new landing points in several parts of the country, Dumistan among them.

DEF CON Villages Debut

● Bahrain to host DEF CON Villages

● Youth and startups spotlighted

● Cybersecurity talent-building ramps up



H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa speaks at the event

Mahir Haneef
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is set to become the region's new epicentre for cybersecurity innovation, with the third Arab International Cybersecurity Conference & Exhibition (AICS 2025) unveiling the launch of the Arab world's first DEF CON Villages.

The announcement was made yesterday at a press conference held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and Prime Minister. The event, scheduled for 5 to 6 November at Exhibition World Bahrain, is organised for the third consecutive year by Faalyat.

DEF CON Villages debut

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), in collaboration with DEF CON, one of the world's most iconic hacker communities, confirmed that the Villages will focus on artificial intelligence, space, cloud

security, and industrial control systems. Interactive Demo Labs will accompany the Villages, offering hands-on tech experiences to researchers, startups, and students.

H.E. Shaikh Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, CEO of the NCSC, said the collaboration with DEF CON represented a leap forward in positioning Bahrain as a global cybersecurity hub. "It's a platform to exchange global expertise, showcase innovation, and prepare the region for evolving cyber threats," he said.

Youth front and centre

The event will include a youth empowerment programme, mentorship initiatives, and a Capture the Flag (CTF) cyber contest to spotlight local and international talent. The NCSC also announced a strategic partnership with the Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance (BIBF) to deliver specialised training for emerging cybersecurity professionals.

A new local community initiative, DEF CON Group Bahrain, was also launched to unite experts, students, and enthusiasts focused on defensive cybersecurity practices and digital resilience.

Building cyber leadership

More than 10,000 participants from 50 countries are expected to attend, alongside 100 international speakers and experts. The programme includes pavilions, technical workshops, cyber competitions, and a global tech exhibition.

H.E. Shaikh Salman praised the ongoing collaboration with Faalyat, which continues to bring world-class stakeholder engagement and experiential design to the region's most prominent cyber event.

The third edition of AICS builds on Bahrain's commitment to secure digital transformation and cyber innovation, reinforcing its vision to lead the Arab world in shaping future cyber ecosystems.

NTV marks 23rd anniversary



NTV, one of Bangladesh's most popular Bangla-language satellite and cable television channels, marked its 23rd anniversary with a vibrant celebration and cultural event at a renowned hotel in Bahrain on 18 July 2025. The program, organised by the NTV Viewers Forum Bahrain, brought together prominent figures and members of the Bangladeshi expatriate community to commemorate the channel's significant contributions to media and culture. The event was graced by the presence of H.E. Mr. Md. Rais Hasan Sarower, ndc, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Bahrain, who was the Chief Guest. He was joined by other officers of the Bangladesh Embassy in Bahrain.

Youth empowerment



In celebration of World Youth Skills Day, observed annually on July 15, the Safety Training and Consulting Centre, a subsidiary of Excellence International Business Group, hosted a specialized workshop aimed at empowering youth across various age groups. The initiative sought to enhance both professional and personal skills, promote a culture of continuous learning, and equip participants with essential tools to navigate the evolving demands of today's labor market. Held at the Centre's headquarters, the workshop featured an engaging agenda that included key topics such as how to write a professional CV, job interview techniques, effective communication and presentation skills, and personal branding strategies.

Strategic Jasra Interchange project



A significant portion of the strategic Jasra Interchange development project has been completed, according to a recent aerial photograph taken over the past few days, indicating that the project is entering its final stages of construction. The project, which involves the construction of a left-turn bridge from Janabiya Street to Shaikh Isa bin Salman Highway, is being implemented by the Ministry of Works.