

Historic Sitra spring revival set for first phase

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

A long-forgotten spring in Sitra is set to flow back into public life.

Plans to restore Ain Al Rahah have moved forward after the site was officially included in the first phase of Bahrain's natural springs revival project, marking a step towards preserving the Kingdom's environmental and cultural heritage.

Services and Public Utilities Committee Chairman Eng. Mohammed Tawfiq Al Abbas said that the Capital Trustees Board unanimously approved the proposal and referred it to the relevant authorities under Municipal Law No. 35 of 2001.

He noted that the response from Municipalities Affairs Undersecretary Shaikh Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Khalifa confirmed strong government interest in reviving historic springs in coordination with the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities.

The project aims to transform the site into a heritage



Old and new photos of the site



Eng. Mohammed Tawfiq Al Abbas

and tourism landmark, while also creating a public space for residents.

The initiative is expected to contribute to improving quality of life, while preserving Bah-

rain's natural identity for future generations.

New road use rules reviewed

Proposed legal amendments aimed at streamlining permits for using public roads and pavements were reviewed by the Capital Municipal Council during its latest session.

The draft changes to Legislative Decree No. 2 of 1996 seek to simplify procedures for activities such as installing kiosks, placing signage, and using parts of public walkways for commercial or service purposes.

Urgent upgrades at Budaiya beach park



Mohamed Saad Al Doseri

A municipal council member called for urgent upgrades to public facilities in Budaiya, citing deteriorating infrastructure

at a sports ground and safety concerns along the coastline and public parks.

Mohamed Saad Al Doseri said residents in Budaiya continue to face long-standing issues, including a damaged sports ground in Complex 552 that has remained in poor condition since at least 2022.

The site reportedly suffers from torn artificial turf, broken goal nets, and unusable basketball facilities, despite being included in planned works for 2024 that have yet to be completed.

He said repeated delays have deprived residents of a safe and functional recreational space.

New Millennium School Celebrates Outstanding Performance in JEE Main 2026



Krish Das - 97.08 percentile



Rohan Singhvi - 96.90 percentile



Diya Vivek - 93.1 percentile



Anushka Jaydip Tayde - 90.77 percentile

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New Millennium School proudly announces its students' exceptional performance in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main 2026 - Session 2, one of the most competitive engineering entrance examinations conducted by the National Testing Agency, Government of India.

Principal Dr Arun Kumar Sharma expressed immense pride in the students' achievements, stating that the outstanding results are a testament to the hard work, discipline, and commitment of students.

He congratulated the achievers and appreciated the relentless efforts of the teachers and the support of parents in guiding the students towards success.

Chairman Dr Ravi Pillai and Managing Director Mrs Geetha Pillai extended their heartfelt congratulations to the students, faculty, and parents for this remarkable accomplishment and also stated that the school remains committed to fostering future leaders and innovators.

New Millennium School continues to uphold its tradition of academic excellence by preparing students not only for board examinations but also for competitive global opportunities.

The school looks forward to many more such achievements in the future.

Summer Heat

Challenge for Animal Rescuers

Neethu V
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's summer heat spares no one - especially the voiceless. Abandoned pets and stray animals struggle for shade, water and survival, while rescue centres across the Kingdom face heightened vigilance, heavier workloads and constant care during the demanding season.

At the Bahrain Animal Rescue Centre (BARC)'s new shelter at the Aamal Al Moayyed Sanctuary for Animals in Sitra, one of the Kingdom's largest animal shelters, volunteer Michelle Smith told TDT that rising electricity bills remain a major challenge as summer consumption increases significantly. The shelter's solar system is still not fully operational due to delays linked to the conflict.

Home to around 251 dogs and 60 cats, and operating at full capacity, the centre adjusts its daily routines during the hotter months to protect animals from heat stress. Water bowls are refilled more often, shaded areas are maintained, and animals are closely monitored during peak heat hours.

Michelle further added, "It's disheartening to see dogs getting abandoned especially at this time of the year. Summer is



Michelle Smith, BARC volunteer, with a rescued dog.

difficult for strays too. But being used to the island's weather, they still cope. Domestic pets, who are used to the comfort of a home, struggle the most when left outside."

She urged the public to help where possible, adding that offering water, seeking veterinary care, neutering, or fostering strays until they find a shelter can make a difference.

Behind every rescue is a detailed process, the BARC team told TDT. Each animal undergoes medical checks, vaccinations and treatment before joining shared spaces. Even healthy animals need preventive care,



From our recent visit to BARC's new animal shelter.

while injured ones often require long recovery periods. The process costs at least BD100 per animal.

Once ready, staff carefully manage behaviour and compatibility as animals are gradually introduced into groups. The aim is not only shelter, but preparation for adoption, though the centre is currently close to full capacity.

Families

Adding on, Michelle said one of the most rewarding moments is seeing animals find families, but noted that adoption numbers have fallen since the conflict.

Local adoptions remain between 5-10%, while international adoptions, facilitated through

partner groups based in the US and Canada, have declined due to recent logistical challenges.

They also welcomed the Ministry's new animal welfare helpline, calling it a positive step forward.

Michelle said, "Volunteers are welcome at the shelter. Sessions are held on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in winter and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. during summer, with a shift to summer timings expected next weekend. Interested individuals should reach out via Instagram for more details, noting a continued need for greater volunteer participation and community support."

Beyond the shelter, community efforts continue, with many residents treating animal care as



I'm currently caring for around 30 kittens, many just one to two months old, while treatment costs keep rising

EKRAM UZZAMAN

a personal mission.

Speaking to TDT, Ekram Uzzaman, an animal lover committed to rescuing abandoned and injured cats, said he has saved around 100 cats. "Summer makes it harder for them to find food and water. Many sleep under cars or tyres to escape the heat and often get injured," he said, adding he is currently caring for around 30 kittens.

"Many stray cats search for food in garbage bins, but are sometimes chased away or mistreated. My message is simple: show kindness. They are living beings too."

Awareness Drive

'Jood' Team Promotes Inclusion for Children

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A volunteer team from Bahrain Islamic Bank's "Jood" initiative, in collaboration with Alia School, has organised a community event aimed at promoting inclusion for children with disabilities and autism spectrum disorders, under the

slogan "Bahrain is fine... with your smile."

The interactive initiative sought to foster genuine integration between children of determination and their peers in a supportive educational environment, reinforcing national belonging and values of diversity and acceptance.



The programme featured a series of sensory and educational activities tailored to different learning and cognitive needs. Bank employees volunteered in hands-on sessions, including a

group colouring activity of the Bahraini flag and awareness stations focused on personal safety, designed to support children's mental well-being and build self-confidence.

The initiative forms part of Bahrain Islamic Bank's corporate social responsibility strategy, which focuses on innovative community engagement through its "Jood" volunteer team.