

Markets crowded but calm prevails inside

Despite full aisles and busy cashiers, shoppers display quiet confidence rather than panic

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

By mid-morning, the car parks were already full. Trolleys moved steadily between shelves. Cashiers worked without pause. From a distance, the scene could easily be mistaken for panic. Yet during a special tour across several markets, The Daily Tribune found something far more measured and quietly reassuring.

Queues

Yes, the markets are crowded. Yes, the queues are longer than usual. But the story is not one of fear. It is a matter of adjustment. Shoppers said, almost in unison, that they were buying only what they normally buy. Bread. Milk. Rice. Vegetables. "Everything is fine. Prices haven't changed. Nothing is missing," one woman said with a smile, her trolley modestly filled. Another added, "We



Markets are crowded, raising concerns of potential panic buying

“We are just taking our daily needs. No overstocking. Everything is available.”

— WOMAN SHOPPER

are just taking our daily needs. No overstocking. Everything is available.”

Promotions

Shelves remain well supplied. Promotions are still in place. Staff move calmly through aisles restocking goods. The difference is timing. Many residents now prefer to shop in the morning, avoiding evening outings in light of the current situation. As a result, markets feel compressed into a narrower window of hours, bustling from early morning until just before Maghrib.

Rhythm

Beyond supermarkets, life continues at its usual rhythm. Restaurants serve customers. Mobile phone shops welcome visitors. Furniture stores and malls operate normally. While schools, universities and some remote-enabled workplaces have shifted temporarily, commercial activity remains steady, including most services, with limited adjustments in certain areas.

Operations

A limited number of government departments and certain bank branches, particularly around Juffair and Seef, have adjusted their operations. The atmosphere is not anxious. It is attentive. People are present, aware, but composed. In the crowded aisles of Bahrain's markets, there is movement, but there is also confidence. And that quiet confidence may be the most telling sight of all.

Muharraq Municipal session postponed

● Until further notice

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

The Muharraq Municipal Council session scheduled for yesterday has been postponed until further notice due to the current situation in Bahrain. The decision comes as part of precautionary measures adopted during this period, reflecting a broader commitment to prioritising public safety and ensure smooth coordination with relevant authorities. No new date has yet been announced for the reconvened session.

The decision reflects a broader commitment to prioritising public safety.

Files

The postponed meeting was expected to address several municipal files concerning services and local development matters across Muharraq's districts. However, officials indicated that the delay is temporary and procedural, aimed at maintaining stability and allowing conditions to normalise. Municipal work, meanwhile, continues through the executive channels, with ongoing projects and service operations proceeding as planned.

Services

Residents are advised that essential services remain uninterrupted. The council is expected to announce the rescheduled date once circumstances permit, reaffirming its commitment to serving the community and advancing development priorities in the governorate.

‘Security first’ as Bahrain faces regional tensions

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Security remains the first priority as Bahrain navigates exceptional regional circumstances following the recent Iranian shelling targeting the Kingdom and neighbouring states.

MP Ahmed Sabah Al Salloom, Chairman of Parliament's Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, said state institutions responded with high efficiency and firm national responsibility, reflecting advanced readiness across security and military bodies.

He noted that early monitoring systems, swift activation of emergency plans and immediate field coordination demonstrated that contingency planning was not theoretical but a tested and integrated framework.

The lawmaker added that the discipline and professionalism shown by personnel underscored a steadfast commitment



“Bahrain remains resilient, united and fully capable of overcoming challenges.”

— MP AHMED AL SALLOOM

to protecting Bahrain's territory and airspace.

Role

Al Salloom praised the role of Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) and the Ministry of Interior in reinforcing defence and early

warning systems, securing vital facilities and ensuring continuity of essential services without disruption.

Transparent communication with the public, he said, helped maintain reassurance and limit rumours.

From an economic perspective, he stressed that security stability forms the foundation for safeguarding national gains and sustaining market activity.

Preparedness

He said state institutions showed clear preparedness to protect supply chains, maintain financial and banking operations and secure essential goods.

Al Salloom affirmed the committee's full support for measures taken to strengthen national security, urging community cohesion and reliance on official sources.

Bahrain, he concluded, remains resilient, united and fully capable of overcoming challenges.

Man held for filming and posting fabricated videos and images

TDT | Manama

A 34-year-old man has been arrested for misusing social media.

The Ministry of Interior announced that the Cybercrime Department of the General Directorate for Combating Corruption, Economic, and Cyber Security made the arrest.

The individual reportedly filmed videos related to the Iranian aggression targeting multiple locations and circu-

lated fabricated images, created using artificial intelligence, depicting damage to several homes.

These posts, shared on his social media accounts, constitute a legal violation that could threaten security and public order.

The Directorate confirmed that the necessary legal procedures are underway and that the individual will be referred to the Public Prosecution upon completion of investigations.

Camping season suspended by Governorate until further notice

● Part of Kingdom's precautionary measures to ensure security and public safety

TDT | Manama

The Southern Governorate has announced the suspension of the camping season starting yesterday until further notice.

It cited current circumstances and concerns for the safety of citizens, residents, and visitors to the desert.

The governorate said the decision is part of precautionary measures aimed at ensuring se-



Tents and equipment of campers in the desert

curity and public safety across the Kingdom of Bahrain.

It emphasised the importance of adhering to all official instructions and directives.

Tents and related equipment

must be removed by campers and desert visitors within a three-day period beginning March 23, 2026, and wished everyone safety during this time.

Iran says it has ‘no hostility’ towards Gulf states: Araghchi

Tehran

Iran, which launched retaliatory action in the Middle East after US-Israeli strikes since the weekend, bears no ill will towards Gulf countries, its

foreign minister said yesterday. "Iran harbours no hostility towards the Persian Gulf countries and is determined to pursue good neighbourly relations with them," Abbas Araghchi said during a phone call with his Chi-

nese counterpart, Wang Yi. According to his ministry, Araghchi said Iran's "defensive response against US military bases... should not be seen as an Iranian attack against these countries".