

BD300 warning stickers on bins under study

Proposal aims to curb littering, improve cleanliness, and highlight fines directly on garbage bins

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Garbage bins across the Northern Governorate may soon feature warning stickers displaying cleanliness guidelines and BD300 fines, under a proposal currently being reviewed with the cleaning committee and a contracted sanitation company.

The initiative, submitted by Northern Municipal Council member Abdulla Abdulhameed Ashoor, seeks to reduce littering, prevent random waste disposal, and discourage practices that attract stray animals and rodents.

A ministerial response confirmed that the proposal is under technical and design review in coordination with the cleaning committee and service provider. The assessment will focus on sticker design, wording, guidance content, and language clarity.

The Northern Municipal Council had unanimously approved the proposal earlier, aiming to place clear instructions

directly on waste bins to increase public awareness at the point of disposal.

Abdulla Abdulhameed Ashoor said the measure is intended to address repeated improper behaviour, including leaving garbage outside bins and relocating containers from their designated positions.

A sample sticker attached to the proposal includes warnings against feeding birds and animals, placing waste outside bins, and moving containers. It also highlights a BD300 fine for violations related to feeding animals and birds.



“Placing guidance directly on bins will help address repeated daily behaviour”

- ABDULLA ASHOOR

Officials said the goal is to make regulations more visible to residents, workers, and passers-by, rather than relying solely on general awareness campaigns.

The proposal also cites broader objectives, including improving neighbourhood cleanliness, reducing the spread of pests, and supporting municipal waste management operations.

Council members noted that improper bin usage negatively affects the appearance of residential areas and contributes to unhygienic conditions. They added that simple, direct instructions on bins could significantly improve compliance.

Watermelon Demand Rises in Bahrain Heat

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Mohammed Darwish

Watermelon is flying off market stalls across Bahrain as heat and humidity push shoppers toward the summer fruit.

It has become one of the most bought items in local markets, selling for BD1 per three kilograms.

Vendors said shoppers turn to watermelon as temperatures and humidity rise, drawn by its high water content, lower prices and wide supply across the kingdom.

Markets carry imported watermelon from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Syria, Egypt and Iran, along with Jordanian yellow watermelon. Traders said Jordanian red watermelon is leading the market now, both in volume and demand.

Redha Al Bustani, chairman of Al Bustani Fruits and Vegetables Group, said the market is well supplied with imported watermelon, mainly from Jordan, Oman, Syria and Egypt.

He said Bahrain is now in the peak of the watermelon season, with demand expected to stay high over the coming weeks as the summer weather continues.

Al Bustani said shoppers choose watermelon because it is cooling, water-rich and suited to Bahrain's climate. He said the supply has helped keep prices stable and meet



Redha Al Bustani "Patience is the secret to perfect fruit—let it ripen on

demand.

Watermelon is widely eaten in Bahrain and neighbouring Gulf states during summer. It is eaten on its own, served in salads or made into chilled juice.

Growers say the fruit should not be picked too early because it does not ripen the same way after being cut from the plant. Buyers are advised to choose fruit without bruises, cuts or soft patches.

A ripe watermelon is often

round or oval, rather than uneven in shape. Traders say a fruit that feels heavy for its size is usually the better choice, as this points to higher water content.

Another sign is the yellow patch on the underside. A larger yellow mark often means the fruit spent longer on the ground and had greater exposure to the sun before being picked.

Some buyers also tap the fruit with their fingers. A clear, drum-like sound is often taken as a good sign, while a duller sound can point to weaker ripeness, though vendors say this test is not final.

Traders also advise shoppers not to rush into buying watermelon before the main season, saying fruit bought in season is more likely to have had enough sun. They said local produce, when available, is often preferred because imported fruit can be affected by transport and storage.

Medicine on Wheels: How Healthcare Reached Bahrain's Villages

From a Model T Ford to a satellite-tracked ambulance fleet, Bahrain's emergency care journey began one village at a time

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Hasan Barakat

Before paved roads and bridges linked Bahrain's scattered villages, reaching a doctor often meant a donkey ride or a boat trip to Muharraq. For many communities, medicine



Fouad Al Shakar

simply did not come to them.

That began to change with a man named Salaam — a former patient who stayed on at the hospital and took the wheel of a small motor car,

ferrying a physician to those who could not make the journey themselves. The vehicle was nicknamed "The Little Traveller", and by around 1920 it had become Bahrain's first ambulance.

According to historian Fouad Al Shakar, the mission was straightforward: an early Ford doubling as a

mobile dispensary, a doctor, a nurse, and medicines handed directly to villagers who turned out in numbers for care they had never before accessed.

From that single car, emergency services steadily expanded. The Bahrain Petroleum Company opened a hospital with ambulance transport in

Awali in 1937. The Ministry of Health launched its own service in 1950.

By 2007, the system had unified under a single national emergency number — 999 — with GPS-tracked ambulances, advanced life-support equipment, and free care for citizens, closing in minutes the distances Salaam once crossed in hours.



Salaam with the Ford medical car during a visit to one of Bahrain's villages

From The Court

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Rehab Mohammad

Cassation Court Upholds 3-Year Jail Term Over Arad Building Collapse

Restaurant owner held responsible for fatal gas explosion that killed two and injured six

The Court of Cassation has upheld a three-year prison sentence against a restaurant owner convicted over the fatal Arad building collapse caused by a gas explosion.

The explosion occurred on February 12, 2025, after a gas leak at the restaurant, killing two people and injuring six others. Investigations found the restaurant began operations without mandatory Civil Defence approval and in-

stalled unapproved gas detection and shut-off systems, allowing gas to accumulate before the blast.

The Public Prosecution charged the owner with causing deaths and injuries through negligence and violating fire safety regulations. The Court of Cassation's ruling makes the three-year prison sentence final.



The Arad building collapsed after a gas explosion on February 12, 2025

Woman Cleared, Man Gets 15 Years in Bahrain Drug Trafficking Case

Court exempts woman for cooperating with authorities; orders deportation of both defendants.

The First High Criminal Court sentenced a man to 15 years in prison and fined him BD10,000 after convicting him of drug trafficking, while exempting a woman from punishment for helping authorities arrest him.

The case began after customs officers at Bahrain In-

ternational Airport discovered 5.4kg of marijuana concealed in a travel bag arriving from an Asian country via a Gulf state. The woman admitted she had been paid to deliver the drugs and later cooperated with investigators, leading to the arrest of the intended recipient.

Authorities also seized methamphetamine, an electronic scale and drug-packaging materials from the man's residence. The court ordered the permanent deportation of both defendants after the completion of their sentences and confiscation of the seized items.

Man Faces Human Trafficking Charges Over Domestic Worker

Worker alleges she was forced to work for nearly a year without full pay

High Criminal Court has heard the case of a man in his thirties accused of human trafficking and exploiting a domestic worker in forced labour.

Prosecutors allege the man employed the worker starting in May 2025 without paying her full wages, forced her to work under unsuitable conditions, and unlawfully withheld part

of her salary. The worker told investigators she was promised a monthly wage of BD100 but received only BD200 during nearly a year of employment.

The defendant denied the allegations, claiming he regularly paid her salary and provided accommodation, food, internet access and leave. He said financial hardship and his

mother's illness prevented him from paying her wages for several months, adding that he had informed the worker of his situation. He also admitted failing to renew her residency permit after it expired.

Police said the defendant later pledged to pay BD1,000 in outstanding wages. The case remains before the court.

Court Replaces Jail Term With Community Service in Assault Case

Victim suffered 7% permanent disability after being slapped

High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld a one-year prison sentence against a man convicted of assault but ordered the sentence to be served as community service.

The case involved the assault of a 62-year-old man who mistakenly tried to enter a house

while looking for a mosque. According to court records, the homeowner slapped the victim, causing a perforated eardrum and permanent hearing loss assessed at 7%.

The court said it considered the defendant's age, personal circumstances and clean crimi-

nal record before replacing the prison sentence with community service. Prosecutors said the defendant admitted confronting and removing the victim from his property, while forensic evidence confirmed the injuries and resulting permanent disability.

Appeal Court Orders Psychiatric Evaluation in Domestic Worker Assault Case

The First Criminal High Court of Appeal ordered a psychiatric evaluation for a man convicted of assaulting his domestic worker to determine whether he was mentally responsible at the time of the incident.

The defendant was previously

sentenced to three years in prison after the assault left the victim with a permanent 7% disability to her left ear. The hearing has been adjourned to July 19 pending the medical assessment.

According to court records, the assault followed an argument over the defendant's mo-

bile phone. The victim alleged she was attacked, pushed to the ground and suffered a severe ear injury. The defendant admitted biting the victim but claimed any injury to her ear was accidental. Witness testimony and forensic evidence formed part of the prosecution's case.