

Streets are for Bahrainis

Bahrain restricts street vending to nationals

One-person, one-licence rule enforced to prevent multiple applications across municipalities

Strict trading rules: vendors must stay in assigned spots, maintain hygiene standards, and avoid prohibited areas and goods

New system coming: ministry plans an online platform for food-truck location reservations and approval of municipal properties

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Only Bahrainis allowed to operate street vending in the kingdom, ministry confirms
Street vending in Bahrain remains strictly reserved for Bahraini nationals, with licences personal and non-transferable, the Minister of Municipalities



Jalal Kadhem, MP

Affairs and Agriculture, Wael Al Mubarak, told parliament.

Under a "one-person, one-licence" rule, any attempt to apply for a second licence is automatically blocked across municipalities. "The occupancy system has been programmed so it does not accept a second application if the vendor already holds a licence in another municipality," the minister said in a reply to MP

Jalal

Kadhem.

Vendors must operate only at their assigned spot, with violations subject to licence suspension. The framework is designed to regulate locations, ensure compliance with public health and safety standards, and keep the profession confined to Bahraini citizens.

Currently, there are 31 licensed street vendors in the kingdom: 10 licences were issued in 2023, seven in 2024, and 14 in 2025, with one licence suspended by Muharraq Municipality for breaching regulations.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must be Bahraini, at least 18 years old, medically fit, free of infectious disease, and not employed in the government or private sector. They must also not appear in the commercial register. Licences

run for one year and can be renewed in the final month of validity.

Trading rules

Vending is prohibited near ministries, government offices, embassies, highways, junctions, roundabouts, traffic lights, and within 500 metres of shops selling similar goods. Vendors may not sell cooked food, milk products without health authority approval, fireworks, weapons, or other banned

littering, and causing pollution are strictly forbidden.

For mobile food vehicles, operators must obtain written permission from property owners, avoid parking on road reserves, maintain spacing between vehicles and junctions, and ensure safe electrical connections. Vehicles on municipal land require approval from the relevant municipality. In residential areas, operations are restricted to 6 a.m. to midnight, with parking confined to the proper-

ty boundary.

Inspections and new scheme

Regular inspections are conducted at food-truck sites to ensure compliance. Al Mubarak said the ministry is preparing a new scheme to organise food-truck locations, including an online booking system allowing operators to reserve desired spots. Approval has already been granted for 18 mobile food vehicles to operate on municipality-owned properties.

Representative image



New housing project to begin in Muharraq's second district



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Works are set to start on 15 lands previously allocated for temporary housing apartments in Complex 221, Muharraq Governorate's second district.

MP Hamad Farouk Al-Dawi confirmed that a tender has been awarded to a real estate development company to carry out the project. He said it is the second housing initiative approved in the district in 2024, following an earlier scheme that included 300 units.

"The project is an important step in repurposing available spaces to create new housing

units, supporting urban development plans and meeting the needs of the next phase," Al-Dawi added.

He highlighted that the initiative was coordinated with the Ministry of Housing and praised the efforts of Minister Amina bint Ahmed Al-Rumaihi and Undersecretary Fatima bint Hassan Al-Mannai, noting that their support helped approve two housing projects in the district after a 20-year gap. The MP said the projects would positively impact residents of the second district and the wider Muharraq Governorate.

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A woman who suffered a 15% disability in a road accident has been awarded BD8,000 in compensation, to be paid jointly by the driver responsible and the driver's insurance company.

The court also ordered the insurer to pay 3% annual interest on the sum, calculated from the

date the civil case was filed until full payment.

According to lawyer Ebrahim Al Doseri, the claim initially sought BD6,000 for the woman and BD1,500 for a second claimant, along with legal interest.

Court documents stated that the driver failed to exercise the care required while turning left, cutting across the path of a motorcycle without registration plates. The collision threw the rider into the pedestrian, causing injuries to the woman. Damage was also reported to both vehicles.

The court treated the driver's prior criminal conviction as binding proof of fault, noting that the judgment had become final since no appeal was filed. This ruling established the insurer's liability under

compulsory motor insurance rules.

At the hearings, both claimants and the insurance company were represented by lawyers, while the driver was absent.

The court rejected the second claimant's request for compensation, citing a lack of evidence of material loss arising from the accident.

Gulf archaeology symposium to strengthen regional cooperation



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The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) hosted the Gulf Archaeology Symposium, "Gulf Archaeological Heritage: Discovery and Preservation", on 6-7 January 2026 at the Bahrain National Museum. The event brought together leading re-

searchers and specialists from GCC countries in collaboration with the GCC General Secretariat.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, BACA President, said the symposium reflects Bahrain's commitment to fostering regional cooperation in archaeology. He highlighted that shared archaeological her-

itage is central to the collective cultural identity of GCC states and underlined the importance of such forums in advancing research and preservation efforts.

The opening session featured a keynote by Dr Salman Ahmed Al Mahari, Director General of Antiquities, who outlined Bahrain's approach to managing and safeguarding archaeological



sites, while emphasising the role of regional and international collaboration.

The symposium included specialised sessions on recent archaeological discoveries, site management and conservation, and the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in heritage documentation and preservation.