

# Shura Approves Maritime Emissions Pact

Bill brings Bahrain under international rules to curb ship emissions

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Darwish

Shura Council approved a bill on Sunday allowing Bahrain to join a global maritime pact aimed at cutting ship emissions after the government confirmed that ports, ship operators and the private sector were ready to meet its terms.

The bill brings Bahrain under Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, attached to Decree No. 7 of 2026. The annex deals with air pollution from ships, mainly through rules on fuel, engines and vessel operation.

Bader Hood Al Mahmood, Undersecretary for Ports and Maritime Affairs at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, told the chamber that

Bahrain had checked the ground first.

"The government does not join any annex of an international convention before making sure all its terms can be fully carried out in Bahrain—operationally, financially and technically," he said.

He said Annex VI covers two main areas: the fuel ships use and the engines that produce emissions. Bahrain, he added, was ready to apply the rules through its ports, ship operators and the relevant bodies.

Mr Al Mahmood said Bahrain has more than 230 registered ships, but the annex would cover only 62 of them. He said the government, the private sector and ship operators were ready for the financial and operational duties tied to accession.

Regarding the delay, he said



**"Joining now allows Bahrain to actively participate in international maritime discussions and ensure its economic interests are protected."**

**BADER HOOD AL MAHMOOD, UNDERSECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR PORTS AND MARITIME AFFAIRS.**

the government wanted to ensure both state bodies and the private sector could carry out the international duties. Bahrain joined the main convention in 2005, when Annexes I and II were mandatory, after confirming that those duties could be fully met, he said.

The other annexes were op-

tional. Mr Al Mahmood said Bahrain chose to join Annex VI now so it could participate in talks at the International Maritime Organisation regarding how the rules are applied and any limits that might affect Bahrain's economy and the Gulf economy.

"Not joining would have de-

prived Bahrain of the right to vote on international decisions with an economic effect," he said. Joining, he added, gives Bahrain the right to participate, vote, and defend its interests in matters affecting the maritime sector and the wider economy.

The Shura Council's Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee said the bill builds on Bahrain's earlier accession to the 1973 convention, as amended by the 1978 protocol, and fits with the Maritime Law issued by Law No. 10 of 2022.

The committee also linked the bill to Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and the kingdom's aim of reaching net zero by 2060. Mr Al Mahmood said Annex VI was among the main items Bahrain had studied so it could join 'at the right time'.

## Bahrain Condemns Tanker Hijacking

Expresses full solidarity with Egypt over abducted sailors

Bahrain strongly condemned the hijacking of an oil tanker in Yemeni territorial waters, calling it a "flagrant violation" of international law after the vessel was forcibly diverted to waters near Somalia's Puntland region.

The tanker was carrying eight Egyptian sailors at the time of



the incident, according to Bahrain's foreign ministry.

In a statement, the ministry denounced the seizure as a breach of international maritime law, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and relevant UN Security Council resolutions on maritime security and anti-piracy operations.

Bahrain expressed full solidarity with Egypt's "leadership, government and people," and voiced support for Cairo's efforts to ensure the safety and immediate release of the sailors.

The kingdom also urged the international community and relevant authorities to take urgent, coordinated action to

end what it described as a criminal act, secure the sailors' return to their families, and hold the perpetrators accountable under international law.

It said such incidents threaten maritime navigation, civilian safety, and regional and international stability.

## Recruitment Made Easier

Employers can now request additional candidate lists via national platform.

The Ministry of Labour launched an upgraded digital service allowing employers to request additional candidate nominations for recruiting Bahraini citizens, as part of wider government efforts to improve and streamline public services.

The ministry said the revamped service reduces processing time from five working days to just one day after fully automating the procedure through the national employment platform.

The service enables employers to seek a larger pool of qualified candidates when needed, allowing them to compare applicants and select the most suitable person for a vacancy.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry said the initiative is part of the ministry's push to adopt innovative digital solutions aimed at accelerating recruitment procedures and improving employers' access to suitable candidates.

He added that the service's full electronic transformation, along with simplified procedures and improved user experience, would help save time and boost the efficiency of government services.



- Over 1,300 government services documented, translated and published
- Around 800 services re-engineered and improved
- Part of Bahrain's digital transformation strategy to enhance efficiency and service quality

## AC Repair Quality Concerns Rise

Consumers report misleading discounts and poor workmanship from online AC service providers

TDT | Manama  
Neethu V

With rising temperatures, air conditioning units are under increased strain, leading to more frequent breakdowns and servicing needs. As demand grows, consumers are raising concerns about providers advertising discounted services on social media and questioning the service quality.

Speaking to TDT, a resident shared her recent experience, highlighting how online advertisements can sometimes be misleading.

She found a social media Advertisement offering discounted AC repair services and contacted the provider. Around four technicians were sent to service a split air conditioning unit and refill the gas.

The workers allegedly handled the equipment in an unprofessional manner, including improper cleaning practices and suspected damage to internal components during the servicing. Within days of the repair, the unit reportedly began malfunctioning again, with water leakage and cooling issues recurring.

Reflecting on the incident, the resident said that low prices advertised on social media can sometimes signal inadequate training or lower service quality.

She later filed a complaint with the authorities, citing concerns over the quality of workmanship.

Experts note that while routine cleaning may appear straightforward, tasks such as handling refrigerant gas, checking pressure levels, and repairing internal components require proper technical



knowledge and training.

Speaking to TDT, Shiju, owner of Cooling Care 911, said AC servicing should be carried out annually for residential units. For restaurants and hotels with heavy usage, servicing is recommended at least once every six months.

He noted that any gas leakage should be properly diagnosed and the source of leakage confirmed, rather than simply refilling the gas. "Refrigerants such as R32 operate at higher pressure than older gases like R22 and require careful handling and proper installation, as higher pressure systems can be



- AC technicians in Bahrain must hold valid trade licenses and certifications.
- Licenses are verified through the LMRA
- Mandatory training and annual license renewal are required.
- Compliance with environmental rules set by the Supreme Council for Environment is essential, especially in handling refrigerants.

more prone to leakage if not properly maintained," he said.

Shiju added that in some cases, technicians do not conduct thorough inspections and may simply reconnect damaged wires or circuits without identifying the underlying issue.

Authorities have repeatedly urged the public to exercise caution when engaging with online advertisements for services. The General Directorate of Anti-Corruption, Economic and Electronic Security has consistently emphasized the importance of digital vigilance and responsible use of social media. It has also stressed the need to verify information, avoid misleading content, and rely on trusted sources to protect consumer safety.

## Delivery Rider Death Case Moves to Court

TDT | Manama  
Rehab Mohammad

First High Criminal Court has begun proceedings in the case of a young woman charged over a traffic accident that led to the death of a delivery motorcycle rider earlier this year.

The court adjourned the case until May 17 to allow the defence team additional time to study the file and prepare its response.

During the hearing, the 23-year-old defendant admitted the charges brought against her, including unintentionally causing the fatal accident, damaging third-party property and driving without sufficient care and attention.

According to court records, the incident took place on February 22 while the defendant was driving on Zaid bin Amira Street.

Prosecutors said she attempted to make a left turn at the entrance to a health centre intersection without ensuring the road was clear or giving priority to oncoming traffic, resulting in a collision with the victim's motorcycle.

The impact caused the motorcycle to overturn, leaving the rider with serious injuries. He was transported to the hospital by ambulance but later died on March 3 due to complications from the injuries sustained in the crash.

## Maid Loses Part of Ear in Alleged Assault

High Criminal Court heard disturbing testimony from a Filipina domestic worker who alleged she lost part of her ear after being attacked by her employer's son.

The 47-year-old woman told the court the incident began when the 35-year-old defendant confronted her over a missing mobile phone before allegedly chasing and assaulting her inside the home.

She testified that the man pushed her to the floor, beat her and bit her ear during the struggle. The victim said she later discovered part of her ear lying on the floor.

A medical report presented to the court stated that the woman lost around one-third of her left ear, resulting in a permanent disability estimated at seven per cent. Doctors reportedly concluded the injury was caused by a "bite of great force."

The defendant's sister also testified, saying she found her brother holding the maid by the neck while demanding his phone. She said the victim was bleeding heavily and part of her ear was missing.

Court records showed the defendant, who reportedly has a history of psychiatric illness, admitted to the assault during questioning before later claiming the incident was accidental.