

# Northern Council Sets Priorities

Members call for improved public services and stronger community facilities

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## Air-Conditioned Bus Stops

A member of Bahrain's Northern Municipal Council called for upgrading public bus stops across his constituency, including the installation of air-conditioning, internet access and improved seating facilities. Mohammed Saad Al Doseri submitted the proposal during the council's 17th ordinary session under urgent matters, saying the improvements are needed to enhance daily commuting conditions.

He said many passengers are exposed to harsh weather, particularly during summer, while waiting at stations with limited shade and basic services. The upgrades, he added, would improve comfort, safety and the overall appearance of public transport infrastructure.

The proposal identified several locations in need of development, including areas in Budaiya, Salman City, Al Janabiya and Jasra. Council members said improved stations could encourage greater use of public transport.



A bus stop that needs an upgrade for public convenience



Public park benches need maintenance to ensure cleanliness

## Park Security Measures

Members of Bahrain's Northern Municipal Council have called for stronger security measures in public parks and walkways following repeated

incidents of vandalism across the governorate.

The proposals, discussed during the council's 17th ordinary session, included deploy-

ing security guards, expanding surveillance camera coverage and improving maintenance response times.

Council members said sev-

eral parks, including Budaiya Coast, Barbar Park and A'ali Grand Garden, have suffered recurring damage to facilities, playgrounds and public spaces. They warned that repeated vandalism is increasing maintenance costs and disrupting community use.

Additional recommendations included setting clear opening hours, installing warning signs on penalties for vandalism and increasing community police presence where possible.

## Council Loyalty Pledge

Members of Bahrain's Northern Municipal Council renewed their pledge of allegiance to Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa ahead of their 17th ordinary session, reaffirming support for the Kingdom's leadership.

The pledge was led by council chairman Sayed Shubber Ibrahim Al Wadaei and signed by members around 30 minutes before the session began.

In remarks opening the meeting, the chairman highlighted regional developments and stressed the importance of national unity and responsibility in maintaining Bahrain's stability and security.

Council members said the gesture reflected solidarity with the leadership and support for efforts to preserve public order and social cohesion during a sensitive regional period.



Northern Municipal Council chairman Sayed Shubber Ibrahim Al Wadaei with members

# Council urges urgent fix for rainwater drainage

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During its 17th regular meeting, attended by several government entities, the Northern Municipal Council called for urgent action to address rainwater drainage and stagnant water accumulation, warning of rising public health and environmental risks.

Members said the lack of coordination slowed efforts to address recurring flooding and water pooling in several areas, which they warned contributed to mosquito proliferation and related health concerns.

Council member Abdullah Al-Dhuwadi said the problem has persisted for years, with some locations seeing worsening water accumulation. He highlighted overlapping responsibilities among authorities,

which complicates efforts to implement a clear solution.

Abdullah Mubarak Al-Qubaisi also stressed that drainage issues have remained unresolved for more than four years, calling for immediate and practical measures rather than further delay, citing risks to public health and the environment.

Representing the Ministry of Health, Mohammed Al-Awadhi said mosquito control and stagnant water management are shared responsibilities across multiple agencies.

He noted ongoing coordination with municipalities and the Supreme Council for Environment, adding that monitoring and field response efforts continue.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members unanimously agreed to submit a letter to the Prime Minister through the



Zainab Mahmood Al Derazi

Minister of Municipal Affairs, urging accelerated and comprehensive action on the drainage system issue.

## Al Lawzi mosque plan approved

A proposal to establish a permanent mosque in Al Lawzi, responding to the growing demand for worship space in the rapidly developing area, submitted by council member Zain-

ab Mahmood Al Derazi, was unanimously endorsed during the council's regular meeting. It recommends converting a plot in Block 1020, originally designated for a kindergarten, into a mosque to be managed by the Sunni Endowments Directorate.

An urgent recommendation has been forwarded to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture to take the necessary steps for implementation.

Council members said the decision reflects population growth in Al Lawzi, which has placed increasing pressure on existing facilities and religious infrastructure.

They noted that temporary structures currently used as a mosque are no longer sufficient, particularly during peak prayer times, making a permanent facility a pressing need.

# Bahrain reviews real estate laws with developers

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Bahrain's real estate regulator held a briefing session with property developers on the latest legislative and regulatory updates aimed at supporting the sector's growth and sustainability, officials said on Sunday.

The session, organised by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority Bahrain in cooperation with the Bahrain Real Estate Development Association, brought together industry stakeholders to review recent developments, discuss challenges, and explore opportunities to enhance competitiveness at both the local and regional levels.

The authority said the meeting is part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen engage-

ment with partners in the real estate sector and improve the regulatory environment.

Speaking at the event, Chairman of the Board of Directors Eng. Essam bin Abdullah Khalaf underlined the key role of real estate developers in supporting urban and economic development, describing real estate projects as a cornerstone of investment growth and sustainable development goals.

ENG. ESSAM BIN ABDULLAH KHALAF

# Parcel Drug Plot 15 Years for Smuggler

Rehab Mohammad  
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Court documents showed that an Asian man has been sentenced to 15 years in prison in Bahrain after authorities uncovered around three kilograms of marijuana hidden inside food and household packages at Bahrain International Airport.

The parcel, which arrived from an Asian country in October 2025, initially appeared ordinary during routine screening. However, customs officers detected suspicious density during an X-ray inspection and placed it under surveillance.

Three days later, the suspect arrived at the post office to collect the shipment.

Officers arrested him immediately after he signed for the parcel, which they opened to find 21 concealed bags con-

taining narcotics.

Authorities said the drugs had been carefully hidden to avoid detection. According to court records, the man broke down in tears and apologised after the drugs were discovered.

Investigations revealed he had agreed to receive BD1,500 for collecting the shipment on behalf of an overseas contact. Officials also said he used another person's identity without their knowledge.

Further inquiry suggested the man was linked to an organised trafficking network involved in importing and distributing drugs in Bahrain.

The First High Criminal Court of Appeal upheld the original verdict, sentencing him to 15 years in prison, imposing a BD10,000 fine, ordering the confiscation of the drugs, and deportation after serving his sentence.

# Bahrain and China Discuss Judicial Cooperation



Marika Buttrani Paulson with Chinese judiciary members

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Bahrain and China underscored their growing cooperation in legal and judicial affairs during a series of meetings held in Beijing and Shanghai, according to an official statement.

Marika Buttrani Paulson, Secretary General of Bahrain's international dispute resolution body, met members of the judiciary in both Chinese cities as part of an official visit to the People's Republic of China.

During the meetings, Paulson highlighted the impor-

tance of the close ties between Bahrain and China, noting mutual efforts to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in ways that serve the interests of both countries and their peoples.

The discussions also included exchanges of legal and judicial expertise and a review of topics of shared interest between the two sides.

The visit is part of ongoing efforts to enhance institutional cooperation and professional exchange between Bahrain and China in the field of justice and dispute resolution.