

New Public Service Projects Move Forward

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Separate Utility Meters Proposal

Inside many homes, a single electricity bill is becoming a quiet source of tension, often dividing families rather than uniting them.

In households where married sons, divorced daughters, or multiple heirs live under one roof, utility expenses are frequently registered under a single name. This arrangement often forces informal financial sharing, which can lead to disputes, delayed payments, and growing domestic strain.

A new proposal to allow additional electricity and water meters for individual housing units has now moved forward; officials describe it as a long-awaited solution to these recurring challenges.

Pressure

The Technical Committee approved the proposal unanimously, noting that separate meters could ease pressure on internal electrical systems, reduce the risk of overloads, and improve household safety by minimising faults that may damage appliances or infrastructure.

Beyond technical improvements, supporters say the change reflects evolving household patterns, where increasing reliance on electrical appliances has made shared utility systems more complex. Individual metering would also allow clearer monitoring of consumption,



We have seen cases where a single property is divided into several units with separate meters, and later sold in that form.

— ABDULLA ASHOOR

easier maintenance, and faster identification of faults within specific units.

Barbar 24/7 Ambulance Service Approved

The Services and Public Utilities Committee has approved a proposal to provide a dedicated 24-hour ambulance service at the Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah Health Centre in Barbar.

The move comes in response to rising patient numbers and concerns over delayed emergency response times, particularly during late-night hours when ambulance availability from distant locations can slow critical intervention.

Response

Members said a permanent on-site ambulance would signif-



Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah Health Centre

icantly improve response times, enhance emergency care outcomes, and strengthen the wider healthcare system.

The proposal has been referred to the relevant minister for further action, it aims to improve safety and ensure faster medical support for residents in urgent situations.

New Training Pitch For Budaiya Club

Services and Public Utilities Committee has reviewed a pro-

posal to establish an additional training pitch for Budaiya Club, amid growing pressure on its only available facility.

The club currently hosts five teams sharing a single artificial turf pitch, leading to overcrowded schedules, reduced training time, and extended sessions that often run late into the night.

Strain

Municipal member Mohamed Saad Al Doseri highlighted the strain on players and coach-

es, noting that limited access to the ground is affecting training quality. He also pointed out that nearby clubs benefit from multiple natural grass pitches, widening the gap in available resources.

The existing pitch is in constant use, accelerating wear and limiting opportunities for structured development across all age groups.

New Mosques Planned in Al Lawzi and Dumistan



No individual should be left carrying the financial burden for others when it comes to essential service.

— ABDULLA AL QUBAIS

committee reviewed a plan to allocate approximately 350 square metres of land for a new mosque's construction. Technical assessments raised no objections to the proposal, which intends to better serve a growing residential population. Authorities noted that existing facilities in the area are becoming more difficult to access, particularly for elderly residents.

Land

In Dumistan, Block 1017, officials discussed a separate proposal to convert part of an existing public park into a mosque after previous efforts to secure dedicated land were unsuccessful. The plan reflects ongoing challenges in balancing limited available land with community needs while maintaining the importance of public green spaces.

Both proposals were approved and referred to the relevant minister for further action, underscoring how rapid urban expansion continues to shape infrastructure and planning priorities across residential neighbourhoods.

Established in 1952, Budaiya Club is a key sports and community institution that hosts events beyond football.

Muharraq Council Rejects Removal of Falcon Monument

Mohammed Darwish
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The Muharraq Municipal Council has rejected a request by the Works Ministry to remove the Falcon Monument on Airport Road, citing its cultural and sentimental value to the area.

Council members instead called for alternative solutions, including redesigning the road



We are calling for solutions that protect both the monument and the development of the road project.

— ABDULAZIZ AL NAAR, MUHARRAQ MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN



layout to preserve the landmark or rebuilding the monument using more durable materials if relocation is unavoidable.

Symbol

Council chairman Abdulaziz Al Naar said the monument is a key symbol of Muharraq's identity and should not be removed, warning that relocation could damage the structure. He added that the issue will be revisited



Heritage and development can go hand in hand.

— ABDULQADER MAHMOOD, MUHARRAQ MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER



after reviewing proposed alternatives.

Operational Readiness in Governorates



Security Committee meeting chaired by the Capital Governor

Shaikh Khalid bin Hamood Al Khalifa, Capital Governor, chaired a meeting of the governorate's Security Committee with representatives from various Ministry of Interior departments.

The meeting reviewed meas-

ures to enhance public security and safety, focusing on improving coordination among authorities and boosting response efficiency during current conditions.

Meanwhile, Shaikh Khalifa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Governor of the



Southern Governor reviews security readiness

Southern Governorate, chaired the fourth Security Committee meeting for 2026, which senior security officials attended.

The meeting reviewed ongoing security efforts and the implementation of directives from

the Minister of Interior, aimed at enhancing safety and stability across the governorate.

Discussions highlighted the importance of maintaining readiness and rapid response to emergencies.

High-Profile Bribery Case Heads for Final Verdict

Illegal 2023 transactions

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The High Criminal Court of Appeal (First Circuit) is set to deliver its verdict on 27 April in an appeal involving a public employee and an Arab businessman, both previously convicted in a bribery case linked to the facilitation of official transactions in 2023.

The lower court sentenced the public employee to five years in prison, fined him BD 2,800, and ordered his dismissal

from public service along with a permanent ban from holding government positions. The businessman received a one-year prison sentence, deportation after serving his time, and confiscation of the bribe amount.

Procedures

According to case details, the employee was accused of requesting and accepting a bribe to expedite administrative procedures, despite no longer being officially authorized to handle the transactions following his transfer to another government department. Investigations showed he continued to intervene informally in related matters.