

## Saraya Sanad villa expansion rules already in place

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Homeowners in Saraya Sanad's Block 815 already have room under existing planning rules to build further on their villas, the government has told Parliament in reply to a proposal seeking changes to setback and building ratio rules.

The reply said the aim behind the proposal is already met under Prime Minister's Decision No. 93 of 2023, which sets the planning rules for Bahrain's different areas.

In the government's view, the rules now in force already deal with smaller plots in Private Housing Areas (A), including those in Saraya Sanad.

### Decision

Ministers pointed to Article 8 of the decision, which lays down special rules for plots below given sizes.

For land under 300 square metres, or with a front or side width of 12 to 15 metres, building is allowed up to one side boundary.

For plots with a front width of less than 12 metres, or an area below 200 square metres, building is allowed up to both side boundaries.

In those cases, the front setback stays at three metres if the plot lies on a road less than 20 metres wide, and two metres if the road is 20 metres wide or more.

# 'Stay calm, care for one another'

First aid coach Husnia Karimi says in moments of danger, humanity is tested

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Since 28 February in Bahrain, life has changed in a way no one could have imagined.

Fires, explosions, and sudden injuries have touched families and communities, leaving fear and uncertainty in their wake.

Recent fires in Muharraq and the injuries reported in Sitra have reminded us of this fragile reality.

In the face of danger, what defines us is not only how we survive, but how we care for one another.

### Reminder

These moments are a powerful reminder of our shared humanity. In moments of danger, our humanity is tested.

In an exclusive discussion, first aid coach Husnia Karimi shared how small acts of care during fires, smoke inhalation, and injuries can save lives.

"I have been actively involved in first aid training for several years, offering professional courses and community workshops," she said.

Karimi emphasized staying calm and prioritizing safety.

"If a fire breaks out at home



Image used for illustrative purposes only



or outside, the very first step is to stay calm and call emergency services immediately. Evacuate safely, avoid elevators, and alert others nearby," she advised. "Always ensure your own safety first. Cover your nose and mouth,

stay low to avoid smoke, and only assist others if you are not putting yourself at serious risk."

### Inhalation

For smoke inhalation, she recommends moving the per-

son to fresh air, loosening tight clothing, keeping them calm, and monitoring breathing.

"If they are not breathing, begin CPR if trained," she said. Essential tools include fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, first aid kits, flashlights, bottled water, and emergency blankets.

Regarding injuries from explosions or rockets, Karimi explained, "Ensure the area is safe before approaching the injured. Control bleeding with clean cloths or bandages, stabilize embedded objects, keep the person calm, and monitor for shock. Temporary stabilization is key until emergency responders arrive."

### Evacuation

She stressed protecting children and the elderly: "Prepare evacuation plans, assign someone to assist vulnerable family members, and practice drills regularly. Age-appropriate training ensures everyone knows how to respond calmly."

Karimi added: "Always prioritize safety and prevention. First aid and fire safety training is essential. When every household member is trained, response becomes faster, coordinated, and far more effective in saving lives."

## Online service launched for rain damage compensation requests



Abdullah Ashoor

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A new electronic service has been launched by the Ministry of Works allowing citizens to submit compensation requests for damages caused by heavy rainfall through its official website.

The service follows a proposal submitted by Northern Municipal Council member Abdullah Ashoor during council discussions after severe rain affected parts of Bahrain on April 15, 2024.

Heavy rainfall that day led to flooding in several areas, with water accumulating in streets and neighbourhoods.

Some residents reported damage to homes and personal property as rainwater entered houses and vehicles stalled in flooded roads.

Ashoor said he had submitted an urgent proposal to establish a dedicated electronic platform that would allow citizens to submit compensation requests related to rain damage.

## Eid-shopping crowds fill malls and markets

### Families prepare for celebrations

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Shopping malls and markets across Bahrain witnessed a surge of activity over the past three days as families rushed to complete their preparations for Eid Al Fitr during the weekend.

A tour of several shopping centres and local markets revealed noticeably larger crowds.

Corridors were filled with families and shoppers moving between stores from the evening hours until late at night.

The scene reflected the traditional peak of consumer activity that accompanies the final days of Ramadan.

### Outfits

Clothing and footwear stores were among the busiest, particularly those selling children's outfits for Eid.

Many shops were packed with customers trying on clothes and selecting festive attire.

Shoppers could be seen car-



Busy shopping scenes ahead of Eid Al Fitr

rying bags after moving from one store to another inside the malls.

Sweet shops and chocolate stores also reported strong demand, with families purchasing a variety of desserts commonly associated with Eid celebrations.

### Presents

Perfume and gift stores experienced a similar increase in visitors, as many people chose to buy presents or fragrances to mark the occasion.

Restaurants and cafés inside the malls were equally lively.

Many families combined their shopping trips with social

gatherings after Iftar, creating a vibrant atmosphere across food courts and café seating areas.

Parking areas around some shopping centres were nearly full during the evening peak, reflecting the high turnout.

### Preparations

The final days of Ramadan traditionally mark the busiest shopping period of the year, as residents hurry to complete their Eid preparations.

This weekend was no exception, with markets and malls remaining active late into the night as shoppers continued their search for the finishing touches to their celebrations.

## A verification code that turned into resignation

### Five Bahrainis out of work

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In a case that reveals how technology and language barriers can be exploited, five Bahrainis suddenly found themselves out of work after a simple verification code was used to submit their resignations without their knowledge.

The incident began after the contract of a security compa-

ny that supplied workers to a building affiliated with the Ministry of Labour came to an end.

A supervisor at the company asked the workers to come to the company's office, telling them it was to arrange their transfer to a new workplace.

Inside the office, the workers were called in one by one.

### Message

The supervisor told each of them that they would receive a text message related to the job transfer process and asked them to provide the verification

code included in the message.

Since the message was written in English and the workers did not understand the language, they simply gave him the code.

What they did not know was that the message was not about transferring them to another workplace.

Instead, it was a message confirming an electronic resignation.

By using the verification codes, the supervisor was able to electronically sign resignation letters in their names without their knowledge.

## Ramadan to complete full 30 days

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Astronomical calculations indicate that Ramadan this year will complete the full 30 days.

Eid Al Fitr is expected to fall on Friday, 20 March, according to Dr Waheeb Al Nasser, Professor of Applied Physics and Vice President of the Bahraini Astronomical Society.

Dr Al Nasser explained that committees responsible for



Dr Waheeb Al Nasser

sighting the Shawwal crescent across the Gulf will meet on the evening of Wednesday, 18

March, which marks the 29th day of Ramadan, in line with the Prophetic tradition of visually confirming the new moon.

However, he noted that the astronomical conjunction marking the birth of the Shawwal crescent will occur at 4:25 a.m. Mecca time on Thursday, 19 March, meaning the moon will not yet be present in the sky at sunset on Wednesday.

Consequently, Thursday is expected to complete the thirtieth day of Ramadan.