

Warns against misusing public open spaces

Residents reminded that unauthorised building, storage or fencing on public land is a legal violation

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Manama Municipality has reminded residents that public open spaces located within or near residential areas are part of public property designated for public benefit, and may not be occupied, used, exploited or built upon without first obtaining the required permit in accordance with the law.

In a public awareness notice, the municipality said such spaces are regulated under Legislative Decree No. (2) of 1996 Concerning the Occupation of Public Roads, which governs their use in a way that safeguards everyone's right to benefit from them and helps maintain the orderly character of residential areas.

The municipality listed a number of common violations observed in public open spaces, including incorporating them



into the boundaries of private properties, building storage facilities or extensions attached to residential properties, and constructing corrugated-metal rooms or other temporary structures. Other violations include

storing construction materials, equipment or personal belongings, installing fences, barriers or gates, and any other use that conflicts with the space's intended purpose or restricts others from benefiting from it.

BETTER
YOU
KNOW

Public spaces without a permit is a violation of the law and unauthorised structures will be removed, with legal action against offenders.

The municipality described the preservation of public open spaces as a shared responsibility, noting that it reflects compliance with regulations, safeguards everyone's right to benefit from these spaces, helps maintain the urban appearance of residential areas, enhances quality of life, and promotes the optimal use of public property in line with its designated purpose.

From The Court

TDT | Manama
Rehab Mohammad

Court Hears Terror Organisation Case Involving 17 Defendants

The High Criminal Court has begun hearing the case of 17 defendants accused of joining a terrorist organisation allegedly linked to the ideology of Wilayat al-Faqih, which prosecutors say sought to undermine Bahrain's constitutional system and national unity.

According to the Advocate General and Head of the Terror Crimes Prosecution, the defendants include 15 individuals in custody and two fugi-

tives. Prosecutors allege the group aimed to spread its ideology through places of worship, incite rebellion against the state, promote terrorist activities, and collect funds to support its operations.

The court heard the case in the presence of defence lawyers and adjourned proceedings until July 22, 2026, to allow the defence to review the case files. The court also authorised lawyers to visit their clients in custody.

Iranian Man Faces Trial Over Forged Documents and Pension Benefits

High Criminal Court has begun the trial of a 72-year-old Iranian driver accused of forging official documents and using them to obtain government records and retirement benefits over several decades.

Prosecutors say the defendant falsified personal information, including his name, date

of birth and legal status, to obtain official documents such as a birth certificate, identity records, driving licences and a work card. He is also accused of receiving pension and end-of-service benefits reserved for Bahraini nationals after being registered under the social insurance system from 1983 until his retirement in

Woman Sentenced to Jail for Publishing Sectarian Expressions

The Head of the Electronic Crimes Prosecution stated that the Lower Criminal Court sentenced a woman to one month in prison and ordered the confiscation of her mobile phone after convicting her of publicly assaulting one of the recognised religious sects and showing contempt for its religious rituals.

The details of the case date back to the Public Prosecution receiving a report from the Electronic Crimes Directorate stating that, through monitoring operations carried out by the Directorate on social media platforms, a comment posted

on Instagram was detected containing sectarian expressions capable of inciting strife. Investigations identified the user of the account.

The Public Prosecution immediately initiated its investigation upon receiving the report. The defendant was questioned and admitted that she owned the account and had written the comment that was the subject of the report. Accordingly, the Public Prosecution ordered that she be referred to the competent court while in custody, where the court issued the aforementioned judgment convicting and sentencing her.

ileges available to Bahrainis. Authorities said social insurance contributions paid on his behalf totalled BD46,845.270, while he has continued receiving retirement pension payments since 2015. The court adjourned the case until July 21 to appoint a defence lawyer and ordered that the defendant remain in custody.

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Silver bar prices in Bahrain have crashed by almost BD1,000 a kilogram in four months, leaving buyers nursing losses and draining demand from a market that had drawn a rush of small investors.

A one-kilogram bar that sold for about BD1,700 at the peak now costs roughly BD792, traders said, after global prices fell and confidence in the metal gave way to caution.

The plunge has failed to bring buyers back. Many are instead holding off, wary that prices could fall further after one of the sharpest swings seen in the local silver trade in recent months.

Jaafar bin Jaafar, of Bin Jaa-

far Jewellery, said demand had dropped despite the lower price.

'The price of a kilogram reached about BD1,700 during the rise, while today it is around BD792,' he said. 'That is a fall of close to BD1,000 in no longer than four months.'

He said traders had expected the lower price to draw people back into the market, but the speed of the fall had shaken buyers.

Silver is also prone to steeper moves than gold, he said. A fall in gold can bring a much larger slide in silver, adding to fears among investors who bought near the top.

Sayed Mahmood Jalal, of Dilmun Bars, said demand for silver bars had fallen as prices moved back towards the levels seen before the rally.



Buying had surged while prices were climbing, with investors rushing to secure bars in the belief that the rise would carry on. The fall has since led many to doubt the case for holding silver as a short-term investment.

Some investors have begun selling their bars, although sales remain limited, Mr Jalal said. Others are holding on in the

hope of a recovery.

A number of buyers still regard the fall as a normal market correction and believe silver has room to rise over the longer term.

Ali Hassan, who bought silver during the rally, said his first bar cost about BD400. Several of his friends entered later and paid as much as BD1,300.

TDT | Manama | Hasan Barakat

Mail Delivery Now in One Day

New digital service allows customers to choose delivery time and collection method via SMS



Bahrain has upgraded its mail delivery service, reducing processing time from three working days to just one as part of its ongoing digital transformation efforts.

The Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications said customers will now receive an interactive SMS when their local or international mail arrives, allowing them to instantly select their preferred collection method and delivery time. The enhanced service covers express, registered, ordinary mail and parcels.

The ministry said the upgrade also simplifies collection procedures, improves the user experience, modernises supporting systems and standardises service information across all platforms. The changes have reduced the service level agreement by 25%, helping deliver faster and



Fatima Abdulla Al Dhaen

more efficient postal services.

Undersecretary for Land Transport and Postal Affairs Fatima Abdulla Al Dhaen said the initiative reflects the ministry's commitment to innovative digital solutions, streamlined government services and improved customer experience. She added that the move supports Bahrain's wider digital transformation agenda by automating processes and reducing the time and effort required from users.

Hamad Town Pothole Repairs Delayed for Two Months, Councillor Says

A municipal councillor says relevant authorities have failed to repair a dangerous pothole and road subsidence on Road 554 in Hamad Town for over two months.

Abdullah Mubarak Al Qubaisi, representing the Ninth Constituency on the Northern Municipal Council, stated that the ministry's only response had been placing a temporary metal plate and warning barrier at the site in Complex 1205. This action forced traffic into a single lane and caused persistent congestion.

'Is it reasonable for a single pothole to go unrepaired for two full months?' he said, calling the situation an emergency threat-



ening residents, pedestrians, and passing vehicles.

Al Qubaisi said an inspection found a broken sewage pipe beneath the road, warning the damage could worsen rapidly. He first filed a report on 13 May, followed by phone calls to officials and an urgent reminder on 2 July — all with no meaningful response.

He called on the ministry to deploy emergency teams immediately to begin pipe replacement and repaving without further delay.

Second Phase Targets 12 Illegal Structures in Al Ramli

Northern Municipality has launched the second phase of its campaign to remove unlicensed structures in Al Ramli, Complex 716, targeting 12 sites along Sheikh Zayed Street as part of efforts to implement the area's approved development plan.

Northern Municipality Director General Eng. Mohammed Al Sehli said the first phase saw the removal of 47 out of 61 illegal structures along Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Street and Sheikh Zayed Street. Inspections uncovered a range of unauthorised uses, including car scrapyards, warehouses, livestock pens, workshops, company offices, informal labour accommodation, construction material storage sites, and waste dumps.

Al Sehli said the campaign is being carried out under the



Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning's Resolution No. 1054 of 2024 after completing all legal procedures, including site surveys, issuing notices, and allowing violators time to vacate. He added that the municipality will continue the removals in coordination with relevant authorities until all violations are cleared and the area is ready for future urban development projects.