

# Capital Trustees Oppose Plan for Fixed Business Hours

Proposal would restrict most businesses from operating before 5am and after midnight

TDT | Manama  
Ghadeer Alkumaish

A proposal to introduce fixed operating hours for commercial establishments in Bahrain has sparked debate among municipal authorities, with the Capital Trustees Board voicing strong opposition to the measure and questioning its effectiveness.

The proposal, approved by the Southern Municipal Council, seeks to prevent businesses from opening before 5am and require them to close by midnight unless they obtain a special licence allowing round-the-clock operations. Supporters argue that the measure would help reduce disturbances in residential neighbourhoods, where residents have raised concerns about noise and late-night activity.

However, members of the Capital Trustees Board believe the proposal places unnecessary restrictions on businesses and fails to address the actual causes of those complaints.

Board chairman Saleh Tarradah said commercial operators are best positioned to determine the hours that suit their customers and business needs. He argued that linking residents' concerns to shop operating hours oversimplifies a more complex



Dr. Al Qattan, left, with Mr. Tarradah



MR. ABDULLATIF

issue.

According to Mr Tarradah, complaints such as excessive use of vehicle horns stem from individual behaviour rather than the presence of businesses themselves. Restricting trading hours, he said, would do little to resolve such problems and could instead create new challenges for consumers and business owners alike.

He also highlighted the importance of flexible business hours

in supporting residents with non-traditional work schedules. Essential services, including laundries and dry-cleaning shops, often serve customers who work shifts and rely on access outside standard daytime hours.

The board chairman further stressed that Bahrain's economy benefits from a business environment that allows enterprises to operate according to demand. He noted that cafés, restaurants and other service-oriented businesses often experience peak activity during evening hours, making extended operations an important part of their commercial viability.

While rejecting blanket restrictions, Mr Tarradah acknowledged that certain activities, such as garages and workshops, may require different reg-

ulations due to their operational nature and potential impact on surrounding communities. Supporting the board's position, vice-chairwoman Dr Khulood Al Qattan said businesses continue to face economic pressures and should not be burdened with additional measures that could slow their recovery. She warned that imposing new restrictions at this stage could create further challenges for commercial establishments already adapting to changing market conditions.

**“The proposal is aimed primarily at businesses operating in residential areas, not all commercial districts across Bahrain.”**

# Proposal Seeks Reform of Scrap Site Storage Practices

Municipal Council Hears Calls for Better Oversight of Scrap Yards

TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

Vehicles left exposed to sun, rain and damage at scrap sites have prompted calls for urgent reforms, as a municipal councillor warned that current practices could put residents' property at risk.

Southern Municipal Council member Mohammed Hussain Darraj raised the proposal during the council's final session of the fourth term under “any other business.”

Darraj said there is a need to better organise scrap site operations and improve how vehicles and confiscated belongings are stored during regulatory campaigns.

He called for installing shaded areas to protect vehicles from harsh weather conditions, noting that prolonged exposure can lead to deterioration and loss of value.

The councillor also urged adopting a clear system for registering vehicles and stored items, including labelling them with identifying details to help owners locate and recover their property more easily.

He stressed that personal belongings should be handled care-



Photos of the scrapyards showing random belongings thrown about

fully and stored in an organised manner, warning against overcrowding or practices that may lead to damage, particularly since some items may carry financial or sentimental value.

Darraj further called for reviewing inspection mechanisms, including the periodic rotation of inspectors, to strengthen transparency and improve operational efficiency.

The proposal was discussed by council members but was not put to a vote, as it was introduced under the “any other business” agenda item.

The discussion highlights growing concern over how enforcement campaigns affect private property, with calls to ensure that regulation does not come at the expense of proper protection.

## From The Court

TDT | Manama  
Rehab Mohammad

### Six Drug Traffickers Jailed for Life, Fined BD10,000 Each

Asian defendants to be deported after serving sentences as court dismantles drug-smuggling network

Asian defendants to be deported after serving sentences as court dismantles drug-smuggling network

The High Criminal Court sentenced six Asian nationals to life imprisonment, fined each BD10,000, and ordered their permanent deportation from Bahrain after completing their prison terms for importing, possessing, and trafficking narcotic drugs.

According to the Deputy Chief of the Drug Crimes Prosecution, the case began after the Anti-Narcotics Directorate received intelligence regarding an international criminal network smuggling narcotic drugs

and psychotropic substances into Bahrain for distribution.

Investigations revealed that some network members concealed drugs inside their bodies by swallowing them before entering the Kingdom. The substances were then handed to accomplices in Bahrain for sale and distribution.

The Public Prosecution launched an immediate investigation, questioned the defendants, and presented them with the evidence and seized drugs. Following the investigation, the suspects were referred to the High Criminal Court, which handed down the life sentences, fines, and deportation orders.

### Beauty Salon Owner Fined Over Cameras in Women-Only Areas

Court rules surveillance system violated privacy regulations

The Lower Criminal Court fined the owner of a women's beauty salon BD100 for installing surveillance cameras in areas reserved exclusively for female clients.

The case was brought after a customer discovered cameras inside sections of the salon designated for nail care and personal beauty services and filed a complaint with Al Hidd Police Station.

An inspection carried out by authorities in coordination with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce confirmed the presence of surveillance cam-

eras in women-only areas, where such installations are prohibited under Bahraini law.

The Public Prosecution referred the salon owner to court for violating Ministerial Resolution No. 51 of 2016 governing the use of security surveillance systems.

The court found the violation proven and imposed a BD100 fine. The regulation specifically bans surveillance cameras in changing rooms, restrooms, treatment rooms, bedrooms, and areas designated exclusively for women to protect personal privacy.

### Five Convicted in BD50,000 Tamkeen Fraud and Forgery Case

Court imposes prison terms of up to 10 years; sixth defendant acquitted

Court imposes prison terms of up to 10 years; sixth defendant acquitted

The High Criminal Court sentenced five defendants to prison terms ranging from one to 10 years and imposed fines totaling nearly BD30,000 after convicting them of forgery, fraud against Tamkeen, and unlawfully obtaining more than BD50,000.

The case arose after Tamkeen reported that company owners had secured wage support funds by submitting forged documents through its electronic system. A separate report from the Social Insurance Organization revealed that false information had been entered into its database, allowing individuals to obtain benefits

without legal entitlement.

Investigations showed that fake employment records had been created to secure pensions, end-of-service benefits, and compensation payments.

The court sentenced three defendants to 10 years in prison, while two others received shorter jail terms. Fines ranging from BD1,000 to BD20,000 were also imposed, and seized items were ordered confiscated.

A sixth defendant was acquitted after the court found insufficient evidence linking him to the forgery or proving knowledge of the offences. The court reaffirmed that criminal liability must be based on clear evidence rather than suspicion.

### Court Orders Blackmailer to Pay Woman BD47,000 Compensation

Defendant exploited personal relationship to obtain money and threaten victim

The High Civil Court ordered a man convicted of fraud and blackmail to pay a woman BD47,000 in compensation after exploiting a personal relationship to extort money and threaten her reputation.

Court records show the defendant gradually obtained money from the woman before threatening to expose personal information to her family unless she continued making payments.

As a result, the victim handed over a total of BD43,000. She later filed a criminal complaint, leading to the defendant's conviction and a three-year prison sentence, along with a BD500 fine.

Following the criminal ruling, the woman filed a civil claim

seeking repayment of the money and compensation for emotional and moral damages.

The defendant argued that he had received a smaller amount and claimed the woman was not entitled to compensation because of their personal relationship. However, the court rejected both arguments, citing his previous admission before prosecutors that he had received BD43,000.

The court ruled that exploiting a personal relationship for fraud and blackmail aggravated the harm suffered by the victim. It ordered the defendant to pay BD47,000 in compensation, in addition to legal costs, attorney fees, and enforcement expenses.

## Bahrain to Host 22nd Manama Dialogue at the End of October

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Rehab Mohammad

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) announced that the 22nd edition of the Manama Dialogue will be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain from October 30 to November 1, 2026. The event will bring together ministers, senior officials, policymakers, and experts from around the world to discuss key security, political, and defense challenges facing the Middle East.

The Manama Dialogue is regarded as one of the region's leading security forums. Held annually in Bahrain since 2004, it provides a platform for dialogue and the exchange of views among government leaders, officials, and policymakers from the Middle East, Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa on re-



gional and international issues of mutual concern.

According to the IISS, the conference will address a range of foreign policy, defense, and regional security issues through panel discussions and bilateral meetings involving participating delegations. The institute has not yet announced the detailed agenda or the list of speakers for the event.

The 2026 Manama Dialogue is expected to attract high-level political and security figures from across the globe, continuing its role as a key platform for discussions on strategic and security developments affecting the region.

## Plate Printing Machines Proposed for Service Centres

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Mohammed Darwish

Motorists would be able to print number plates within minutes at service centres and vehicle testing sites under a plan put forward by Northern Municipal Council member Mohammed Al Doseri.

Mr Al Doseri, who represents the third constituency, has called for a study into smart machines that would print vehicle plates after users finish the steps through approved state apps and pay the required fees online.

He said the move would cut repeat visits, shorten waits and

make the service easier for citizens and residents.

The machines would be placed in government service centres and technical testing centres, allowing drivers to collect plates on site rather than return later or wait for manual handling.

Mr Al Doseri said similar services had worked in other Gulf states, where they had helped save time and ease strain on staff and users.

He added that the plan would make plate printing available round the clock, reduce pressure on service counters and support Bahrain's shift towards online public services.

