

# Shura Council mulls plan to ban sale of energy drinks to children

If approved, only those aged above 18 will be allowed to buy energy drinks

**● The law would also prevent the free distribution of energy drinks as well as their advertisements.**

**● The move comes in light of latest research findings that excessive consumption of energy drinks can lead to severe health problems in children.**

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Zafran

A ban on the sale of energy drinks to those under 18 years would be implemented if a proposal by legislators is approved.

The Shura Council may recommend a restriction on children consuming energy drinks after its Youth Affairs Committee placed a proposal to introduce a ban.

Experts define energy drink as any beverage that contains high levels of stimulating ingredient, usually caffeine, as well as sugar and often supplements, such as vitamins or carnitine, and that is promoted as a product capable of enhancing mental alertness and physical performance.

According to the proposed law, those who sell energy drinks to



The council is expected to hold further discussions on the proposal today.

children would be fined up to BD2,000.

If the law is passed, the commercial markets would be required to make it clear that energy drinks are not for sale to those under 18 years.

The law would also prevent the free distribution of energy drinks as well as their advertisements.

Social media was rife with rumours yesterday that the Shura Council was moving towards a total ban on energy drinks.

However, the committee clarified that the proposal is not intended to enforce a total ban on consumption of energy drinks,

**2,000**

Bahraini dinars is the proposed fine to be imposed on those who sell energy drinks to children.

rather is intended to restrict and limit the consumption to those aged above 18.

The committee stated that due to the unhealthy nature of energy



Excessive consumption of energy drinks can lead to severe health problems in children.

drinks, it aims to reduce its consumption in the country.

The move comes in light of latest research findings that excessive consumption of energy drinks can lead to severe health problems in children.

The UK is also implementing a law to ban energy drinks sale to children.

Commenting on the ban, Prime Minister Theresa May said: "Childhood obesity is one of the greatest health challenges this country faces, and that's why we are taking significant action to reduce the amounts of sugar consumed by young people and to help families make healthier choices."

"With thousands of young people regularly consuming energy drinks, often because they are sold at cheaper prices than soft drinks, we will consult on banning the sale of energy drinks to children."

"It is vital that we do all we can to make sure children have the best start in life and I encourage everyone to put forward their views," she said.

Anxiety, insomnia, gastronomic upset, headaches, and hyperactivity are some of the side effects of high level of consumption of energy drinks.

More serious long term effects such as diabetes and heart disease have also been associated with energy drink consumption.

The council is expected to hold further discussions on the proposal today.

## Bahraini youth's media strides stressed



Many young talents were honoured at the event.

**● The Information Minister asserted that the young national competencies are the cornerstone of media development in Bahrain.**

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Information Minister Ali Al Romaihi lauded creativity of the Bahraini youth in media production, stressing the need to support it with all possible means to ensure sustainability of the national media growth in the prosperous era of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He was speaking as he patronised the Cinema of Literature function, which was organised by the University of Bahrain (UoB)'s College of Literature Society, in the presence of UoB President Dr Riyad Yusef



Mr Al Romaihi along with Dr Hamza, Dr Bahar and other dignitaries.

Hamza, Information Ministry Undersecretary Dr Abdulrahman Mohammed Bahar and members of UoB's academic and administrative staff.

The Information Minister asserted that the young national competencies are the corner-

stone of media development in Bahrain so as to preserve national achievements and keep abreast of advancements in the media and telecommunications sector.

He praised the tremendous efforts of UoB to prepare a generation equipped with knowledge

and skills to contribute effectively in the labour market and national development process.

He expressed appreciation of the films he watched which shed light on national accomplishments and discussed social issues in an innovated and artistic way.

## Royal directives on alternative punishment hailed

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**T**he Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) has praised His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's directives to the Government to reinforce its capabilities for the effective application of the provisions of the penal code and alternative punishment, in addition to the provision of rehabilitation measures and programmes according to the personal circumstances of the convict in order to be reintegrated into society.

In this regard, the Deputy President of the SJC and President of the Court of Cassation, Chancellor Abdulla bin Hassan Al Buainain, stressed the importance of consolidating rehabilitation programmes and expand the fields of their application to establish them as a basic practice in the criminal justice system.

This would achieve the expected goals through reforming the convicts and re-integrating them socially to be positive members, as well as support ways to combat criminality, and develop the

spirit of responsibility and commitment to laws, he said.

The Deputy SJC President highlighted the role of law enforcement authorities in applying alternative punishment measures, which the modern experiences have proved their success and effective role in reforming criminals, reducing the recurrence of crimes and ensuring the achievement of the requirements of preserving the right of society to help and enable convicts to develop themselves and become positive members in their communities.



**The directive would achieve the expected goals by reforming the convicts and re-integrating them socially to be positive members.**

CHANCELLOR AL BUAINAIN