

## New rules for Bahrain markets take effect

Traders must hold valid licences and operate sites directly under the new rules

● New rules regulate stalls, licences and public market spaces

● Market traders face compliance deadline under unified regulations

● Streamlines market governance across four governorates

TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

Traders operating in Bahrain's central and traditional markets have been granted a six-month grace period to bring their activities in line with newly introduced unified municipal regulations aimed at strengthening oversight of market operations and public spaces. The new framework, issued separately but in nearly identical form across the Capital, Muharraq, Northern, and Southern Governorates, establishes a single set of rules governing market management throughout the Kingdom.

The regulations are designed to ensure that only licensed operators are permitted to conduct commercial or craft activities within designated market areas, while also tightening control over stalls, pavements, yards, and



shared passageways.

### Licensing rules tightened

Under the updated system, only traders who hold valid licences and have been officially allocated market sites by municipal authorities will be allowed to operate within public and traditional markets.

The rules prohibit the subleasing, transfer, or informal exchange of allocated sites, and require that traders personally operate their stalls, though they may employ registered workers under their responsibility.

Public markets are defined as municipally managed spaces designated for the sale of specific goods and services.

### Six-month compliance deadline

Existing traders and arrangements must be regularised within six months of the regulations coming into force. The new rules apply to both future applications and existing licences, covering site allocation, staffing, usage, and

occupation of shared areas.

Any conflicting previous regulations will be annulled once the new decisions take effect, which will be the day following their publication in the Official Gazette.

### New municipal committees to oversee markets

Each governorate's municipal authority will establish a dedicated market committee headed by the director general. These committees will include officials responsible for markets, property, legal affairs, revenues, building permits, and procurement. They will oversee licensing decisions, site allocation, withdrawals, and reallocation processes in line with government procurement and financial regulations.

### Enforcement and penalties

Municipal authorities will enforce a graduated penalty system for violations. Initial breaches will result in a written or electronic warning, giving

traders up to one week to rectify the issue.

Failure to comply may lead to a temporary suspension from market operations for up to one week, while repeated violations could result in bans of up to 15 days. Continued non-compliance may ultimately lead to licence withdrawal by the market committee.

Affected traders will have the right to file a grievance with the relevant municipal director general within 15 days of notification.

### Regulation of public spaces

The new framework also governs the use of pavements, yards, and passageways within markets. Temporary permits may be granted for such use, provided they do not obstruct movement, compromise safety, or affect environmental and aesthetic standards.

A minimum pedestrian clearance of one metre must be maintained, with municipalities empowered to require wider access depending on pedestrian traffic.

Permit holders must remove all installations and waste once their permits expire.

The regulations form part of a broader effort to standardise market governance across Bahrain's governorates. Authorities say the move will reduce procedural differences, improve transparency, and provide clearer guidance for traders, inspectors, and consumers.

## Batool Al Sharaf tops Bahrain's Arab Reading Challenge



Batool Al Sharaf

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Hasan Barakat



Batool Al Sharaf of Saar Secondary Girls School has been named Bahrain's top winner in the "people of determination" category of the Arab Reading Challenge, outperforming thousands of participants across the Kingdom.

She was recognised during a ceremony marking the tenth edition of the initiative, which senior education officials and school leaders attended.

The competition attracted more than 148,000 students from around 250 public and private schools in Bahrain, highlighting strong national participation in the reading initiative.

Education officials said the programme continues to promote reading culture, critical thinking, and confidence among students, while also celebrating the achievements of students of determination who demonstrate commitment and academic excellence.

Batool's recognition formed part of a wider awards programme honouring outstanding

students, schools, and supervisors across the country. The final stage of the Arab Reading Challenge is scheduled to be held in Dubai.

Her success follows a steady academic and personal journey marked by consistent involvement in school activities and competitions.

Before joining Saar Secondary Girls School, Batool studied at Diraz Intermediate Girls School, where she actively participated in workshops, school initiatives, and student programmes that helped develop her communication, leadership, and creative skills.

She also contributed to school media teams, led morning assemblies, and engaged in extracurricular activities that strengthened her confidence and public presence.

Writing has been a central passion for Batool, who began developing short stories with support from her teachers, including one titled "Thank You, God." She has also taken part in theatre programmes and training in public speaking, media, and digital storytelling.

## Animal rescuers seek shelter site

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Darwish

A call has been made for Bahrain's animal rescuers to be given a permit and a shelter site as dumped pets pile up in homes, pet hotels and on the streets.

Mariam Ali, Head of the BAPS volunteer group, said rescuers had reached breaking point after years of taking in sick, hurt and abandoned animals at their own cost.

The group, made up of women volunteers, rescues animals across Bahrain and relies on sponsors who pay vets directly.

'We are a group of women volunteers working in animal rescue in the Kingdom of Bahrain on purely humanitarian grounds and at our own expense,' Ms Ali told The Daily Tribune.

'Some sponsors help by paying treatment costs directly to veterinary clinics.

'We do not receive any cash donations directly, in order to ensure transparency and comply with the rules.'

Ms Ali said the number of animals left on the streets had risen in recent years, with house cats among the worst-hit.

Many, she said, are dumped after being adopted or when their owners' lives change.

Suddenly left outside, they cannot cope.

They go hungry. They fall ill. Some are hit by cars. Others die.

'These animals suddenly find themselves in an environment they cannot adapt to, leaving them exposed to hunger, disease, injury and death,' she said.

Volunteers have been keeping rescued animals in their own homes while trying to find longer-term care.

But the homes are full.



**'We are asking to be enabled to carry out this humanitarian role in an organised and sustainable way that serves the community and supports the state's efforts to promote kindness towards animals.'**

MARIAM ALI, HEAD OF THE BAPS VOLUNTEER GROUP

Some animals have had to be placed in pet hotels, adding new costs on top of vet bills, food and care.

Ms Ali said BAPS had written to the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and other bodies in the hope of gaining a permit.

She said the permit would let the group work in a lawful and orderly way, and would let it seek help and donations through the right legal channels.

The group also wants a suitable site that can be made ready to house rescued animals.

Ms Ali said volunteers were not asking for cash from the state, but for the chance to carry out their work in a proper way.

'We are not asking for direct financial support,' she said.

'We are asking to be enabled to carry out this humanitarian role in an organised and sustainable way that serves the community and supports the state's efforts to promote kindness towards animals.'

She said several letters and formal requests had been sent in recent months, but no workable answer had been given.

'We hope the relevant authorities will look into our request, grant us the needed permit and provide suitable premises, or help allocate a site that can be used as a temporary centre to shelter rescued animals,' she said.

'This would serve the public interest and spare these souls further suffering.'

## "The Crate Maze"

Bahraini Artist Unveils Monumental Installation at Art Basel Switzerland



Crate Maze - White

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Renowned Bahraini artist Rashid Al Khalifa is presenting his large-scale installation The Crate Maze at Art Basel in Switzerland, one of the world's most prominent contemporary art fairs. The work is being exhibited in the fair's prestigious Unlimited sector, which features ambitious large-scale installations.

The Crate Maze is an immersive geometric structure inspired by shipping containers and cargo crates, symbolising global trade networks. The installation uses interconnected grid-like forms that shift visually through light, shadow, and perspective, creating a dynamic experience as visitors move through the space.

The artwork explores themes of trade and connectivity, reflecting how commerce has historically linked cultures, economies,



**'The Crate Maze reflects Bahrain's enduring legacy as a crossroads of trade and cultural exchange, transforming our maritime heritage and the spirit of Dilmun into a contemporary artistic experience that resonates with global audiences.'**

- RASHID AL KHALIFA

and societies. It also highlights trade as a catalyst for cultural exchange and shared human interaction.

At its core, the installation pays tribute to Bahrain's long-standing history as a key trading hub, drawing references to its maritime heritage and the ancient Dilmun civilisation, which played a central role in regional

and international trade routes.

Presented in collaboration with Sapar Contemporary of New York, The Crate Maze is part of Art Basel Unlimited, which runs until June 21. The installation reinforces Bahrain's cultural presence on the global art stage while connecting its heritage to contemporary artistic expression.