

## Two-month summer outdoor work ban to begin on July 1

● **Violators to face BD500-BD1,000 fine and three-month jail term**

● **Labour Ministry to carry out surprise inspection at work sites**

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The two-month outdoor afternoon work ban in the Kingdom of Bahrain will be in

effect starting on July 1 until the end of August.

This is in accordance with the ministerial edict 39/2013, which bans outdoor work between 12 noon and 4pm during the summer period, which witnesses a rise in temperature and an increase in humidity.

Afternoon temperatures in July average 40°C (104 °F) and can reach 46 °C (114.8 °F) in August, according to the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications' Meteorological Directorate.



Construction workers are prone to summer-related diseases

The Kingdom will enforce the annual ban to safeguard workers' health, ensure their safety against heat exhaustion and sunstroke, prevent summer-related diseases, and enhance productivity.

This also helps in reducing occupational incidents in view of the increasing temperatures and humidity and is in line with the Kingdom's commitment to human rights principles, especially regarding the need to provide secure and healthy work environment.

Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel bin Mohammed Ali Humaidan called on employers to implement the decision, affirming that Bahrain is a leader in ensuring secure and safe work environment for workers, out of its keenness on their safety and health at various production sites.

All preparations have been made by the ministry to ensure the strict implementation of the summer outdoor work ban which was first introduced in the Kingdom in 2007.

# 'Smart rats run riot at major vegetable market'

Traders in plea to authorities to order an intense pest control operation

Staff Reporter  
TDI | Manama

Hundreds of rats consistently breeding their newer generations are raising hell at the Kingdom's largest fruits and vegetables market.

The rodent battalion claims ownership over everything, from almonds to melons and tomatoes to apples, say sources.

Traders at the fruits and vegetables selling area of the Manama Central Market say they were forced to rent storerooms outside the market to keep the vegetables and fruits safe out of fears of rodent attack.

"The market is closed everyday at 4 pm and opens at around 2 am in the morning next day. And during these ten hours, I can say it is under the rule of rodents, hundreds of them digging holes into sacks of fruits and vegetables. I really wonder from where these hundreds of them come from?" a vegetable trader at the market told The Daily Tribune.

"The authorities should immediately carry out an operation here to clear the market of rodent pests, which should be



Net cages used to keep melons safe from rats



A screenshot of the footage showing a rat digging into a carton carrying nuts at the vegetable and fruits market within the Manama Central Market

### 'Defunct AC'

Workers at the vegetables and fruits selling area of Manama Central Market said the air-conditioning system needs an immediate repair. "There are many compressors, which are defunct. I request the authorities to immediately carry out the repair work or else it would be difficult to remain here amidst an intensifying summer," a worker told The Daily Tribune.

followed by regular checks by pest control contractors.

"Our frequent appeals have fallen on deaf ears. The rodent infestation is a big issue since this is the largest vegetable and fruits market, from where fruits and vegetables are carried to small retail shops across the Kingdom."

He added that the rodent headache has become the biggest crisis he has faced since he started his vegetable and fruits sales at the market in the year 1997.

"Anyone would find it hard to believe! I am losing at least

### 'Theft common'

Theft is very common within the market, a trader told The Daily Tribune. He said the authorities should implement a better sophisticated surveillance system along with a few security guards to avoid thefts. "This is the biggest market in the country and it demands a state-of-the-art surveillance system. We are hopeful that the authorities will take notice of our request."

BD20 daily to rodent attacks and every vegetable or fruit seller at this market is a similar victim. Just calculate the thousands of dinars we are together losing every month, and that also immediately after the two-tough pandemic-hit years."

"They reproduce quickly, as far as I understand, and if remained unsolved an infestation crisis of huge intensity is set to affect the market. We will have to close this down for many days, possibly incurring huge losses."

He said the market is a place where food items are sold. "We need to have 100 per cent hy-

giene here. And as one knows, rodents and hygiene are continents apart."

According to health experts, the accumulation of rodent feces can spread bacteria, contaminate food sources and trigger allergic reactions in humans. Once the fecal matter becomes dry, it can be hazardous to those who breathe it in. Moreover, rodent droppings can spread diseases and viruses, including Hantavirus, Bubonic Plague, Salmonellosis and rat-bite fever.

### Lack of cleanliness

Another trader said the lack of cleanliness at the market must be viewed as the major reason behind the rodent attack. "Earlier, regular cleaning activities were carried out twice a week at the market. Now they are only doing it once a week and most often, they do it for the sake of doing it."

"I am sure even pest control teams will require days to devise strategies to tackle the situation, which has really gone out of control. We are maintaining our own storerooms with additional staff. I don't know whether anyone would want to address the ordeal we are going through."

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- VEGETABLE TRADER



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## 'Only 10 toilets available for over 4,000 workers at Manama Central Market'

Staff Reporter  
TDI | Manama

Only 10 toilets are available for over 4,000 labourers employed or associated with the Manama Central Market, said sources.

"We need the authorities to build more toilets here. There are two other toilet facilities here, but they remain closed," a labourer at the vegetable and fruits selling area of the Central



A toilet facility at the market, which has always remained locked



The existing toilet facility at the market

Market told The Daily Tribune.

"There are four more toilets in the area, but they are controlled by some private parties, who keep the keys with them," he said.

He said altogether there are over 4,000 labourers employed or associated with the market, "which is a huge number".

"Most of us rush to the toilet facilities at the nearby mosque. But they are only open during prayer times."