

Delivery App Fee Cap Proposed

MP seeks legal framework to curb high commissions and protect small businesses

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to cap the cut taken by food delivery apps has been put forward after claims that fees of up to 30% are squeezing small firms and driving up prices for customers. MP Jaleela Alawi submitted the parliamentary plan, which calls for new rules to govern delivery apps and shield small, medium-sized and micro businesses from excessive charges. It urges the government to draw up a full legal framework for the sector, covering commissions, contracts and complaints. The plan calls for curbs on the sums taken from restaurants, cafés and shops, along with a study into a fixed ceiling on commissions or another form of price control. Apps would have to tell traders about every fee, commission and method of calculation before any deal is signed. Contracts containing unfair terms or clauses that curb fair competition would also be banned. A watchdog would hear complaints from businesses, look into claims of unfair conduct and have the power



to step in and take action.

Alawi said delivery apps had become a key route to market for restaurants, cafés and shops as growing numbers of customers order meals and goods through their phones. But business owners say some firms take between 25% and 30% from each order. For small traders working on thin margins, that can strip away much of their earnings.

The proposal warned that steep fees leave firms with less cash to hire staff, invest or grow. Some raise menu prices to cover the cost, passing the bill on to customers. Many businesses now rely heavily on the apps to reach buyers, leaving them with little bargaining power and few choices when faced with costly terms. Alawi said the proposal was not aimed at holding back the digital



“Small businesses need a fair share of every sale to survive and grow.”

- JALEELA ALAWI, MP

economy or stopping delivery firms from making money. She said app firms should earn a fair sum for linking traders with customers and handling orders and deliveries. But small firms must also be able to keep enough of each sale to stay open, grow and compete. The proposal said clear rules would curb unfair fees, protect local firms and help keep prices in check.

Energy Efficiency



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, chaired the 35th meeting of the Higher Committee for Energy and Natural Resources. Several topics related to enhancing energy efficiency were reviewed.

Gulf Security Tied to Global Tensions

Derasat CEO Speaks at Cambridge Gulf Research Meeting

Regional security concerns took centre stage as Abdulla Mohamed Al Ahmed, CEO of Bahrain's Derasat think tank, addressed the 16th Gulf Research Meeting at Cambridge University, warning that Gulf security cannot be separated from wider global instability. Around 50 policymakers and experts from the Gulf, Europe and Asia attended the closed-door event. Al Ahmed told a high-level roundtable that recent geopolitical shocks had tested — and proven — GCC defence systems and partnerships. He called for deeper cooperation, including joint defence industries and shared investment in research and technology. In a separate opening panel on how conflicts strain Gulf



societies, Al Ahmed said disruptions to shipping lanes and supply chains exposed vulnerabilities, making Gulf unity essential to keeping goods flowing. He urged Gulf states to shift from reacting to crises toward early preparedness — stronger logistics networks, early-warning systems, and follow-through on commitments made at the Extraordinary Jeddah Summit to shore up regional stability.

Shura Member Urges Asian Parliaments to Condemn Iranian Attacks

Bahrain official calls for firm stance at ASEAN assembly

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Rehab Mohammad

Talal Mohammed Al Mannai, Deputy Chairman of the Shura Council's Services Committee, called on Asian parliaments to adopt a unified stance rejecting Iranian attacks on infrastructure and civilian facilities, and to condemn interference in the internal affairs of states. He spoke during the 17th Meeting of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, held online under the theme of parliaments' role in tackling global challenges. Bahrain's delegation was led by Ahmed Abdulwahid Qarata, First Dep-

uty Speaker of the Council of Representatives. Al Mannai said parliamentary diplomacy should build consensus around sovereignty and international law. He linked Bahrain's approach to peace, dialogue and coexistence to the vision of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, citing the Bahrain Declaration and the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence. He accused Iran of interference and attacks using missiles and drones against Bahrain and regional states, endangering civilians. He said actions affecting shipping in the Strait of Hormuz violate the UN Con-



“Peace begins with dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect.”

- TALAL MOHAMMED AL MANNAI

vention on the Law of the Sea, threatening global maritime security.

Bahrain Joins UN Push to Halve Road Deaths by 2030

Kingdom cites 50% drop in traffic accidents, calls for global cooperation

Bahrain participated in a United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York focused on improving global road safety, held under the theme of cutting road traffic deaths and injuries in half by 2030. Major Hamad Khalil Al Mair, Security Attaché at Bahrain's Embassy in the US, outlined the Kingdom's road safety initiatives. He said the country's strategy, led by the Traffic Council under Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, centers on stricter law enforcement, improved road infrastructure, public awareness campaigns, and community partnerships. Al Mair said these measures have helped reduce traffic acci-



Major Hamad Khalil Al Mair, Security Attaché at Bahrain's Embassy in the US

dents by 50%. He also praised the Bahrain Motor Federation for advancing motorsport safety standards and creating safer conditions for young drivers.

He expressed hope the UN meeting would boost international cooperation and expertise-sharing to reduce road deaths and injuries worldwide.

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