

Man jailed for social media video breach

● For offending public morals

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A man was jailed for one month yesterday for misusing a social-media account by posting a video deemed to breach public morals.

The court also ordered the confiscation of his phone.

The Minor Criminal Court issued the ruling after prosecutors said the video was posted on a public account and is punishable under Bahraini law.

Inquiry

The Public Prosecution opened an inquiry after the Anti-Cybercrime Directorate reported the clip.

The defendant was arrested on a prosecution order and sent to court in custody, where the sentence was handed down.

The chief of Cybercrime Prosecution said the Prosecution will continue to take legal steps, working with the security services and other bodies, to keep Bahrain's online space free of content that offends public morals.

Healthcare milestone

Southern Municipal Council clears land for Al Buhair health centre

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Expropriation of land for a long-awaited health centre in Al Buhair topped the Southern Municipal Council's decisions yesterday, alongside plans to ease East Riffa's traffic and news that a proposed revival of Bahrain's 'dilapidated homes' scheme has been dropped.

Councillors gave unanimous backing to acquire a plot in Al Buhair for a public health centre.

The aim is to cut the strain on nearby centres and spare residents the trek to other districts for routine care.

The site is being chosen for reach, so that families in outlying streets can get seen without a long drive.

Emergencies

Chairman Abdullah Abdullahatif, who put the case to colleagues, said the centre would raise day-to-day care and speed the response to emergencies.

He added that setting land aside for public services keeps pace with new housing and gives the area what it has lacked for years: a local clinic that people can reach quickly.

He said the knock-on effects



Southern Municipal Council session in progress



should be felt beyond health. A new clinic tends to lift nearby property values, draw small investments and open up jobs.

Care

It also helps even out the map of care, so neighbourhoods with fewer services are not left behind.

On roads, the council agreed

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- ABDULLAH ABDULLATIF, SOUTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

to recommend a one-way entry from Shaikh Isa Avenue to Road 1114 in Block 911, East Riffa.

The lane is narrow and currently a dead end, which traps traffic at peak times. The fix is simple: entry only, no exit.

Eighth-constituency representative Ali Al-Shaikh said

residents have lodged many complaints about queues and awkward access, and noted the spot is the most workable.

The neighbour beside the planned turn-in has raised no objection.

Response

Members also recorded the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture's response on the 'dilapidated houses' file.

The ministry said the scheme will not be brought back.

Under a Cabinet decision, owners of unsafe homes are treated as eligible for Eskan Bank loans for repairs, while the Ministry of Housing takes on case reviews and the works needed for repair or rebuild once files are passed across by the Municipalities and Urban Planning Ministry.

BSA takes part in AI for climate global forum

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His Excellency Mo-hammed Ibrahim Al Aseeri, CEO of the Bahrain Space Agency (BSA), participated in the AI for Climate Innovation Factory sessions 2025 organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with more than fifty international organisations.

The initiative comprised two sessions in which start-ups from various countries presented innovative solutions using artificial intelligence to address environmental and climate challenges, with the participation of prominent international experts and assessors.

Dr Al Aseeri said that the initiative represented an exceptional opportunity to review the latest developments in using AI to confront climate challenges, which align with the BSA's efforts to harness advanced space technologies in support of environmental sustainability.

Initiative

He added that the initiative is directly linked to space technologies: it uses satellite data in AI applications for environmental monitoring; it develops innovative solutions for tracking emissions and climate changes using space techniques; and it emphasises the critical use of satellite imagery in training AI models to predict environmental shifts.

Dr Al Aseeri explained that participation in the initiative is of added value for the Agency's team, contributing to the planning of its future initiatives, especially concerning building strategic partnerships with global start-ups specialised in climate technologies, and working to develop the national team's capabilities in AI applications for space data using the most current and reliable technologies.

MP Al Sayegh: Treaties must not outrank citizens' interests

● Domestic worker mobility questioned

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MP Mariam Al Sayegh led a sharp challenge to the government's stance that domestic workers may switch jobs once contracts end, arguing that treaties must not outrank citizens' interests.

She said families pay about BD2,000 to recruit a domestic worker and that easy moves between roles can shut Bahrainis out of jobs they could fill.

"If these agreements do not match the interest of citizens or our local conditions, we do not want them," Al Sayegh told MPs.

Links

She also urged closer links between visas, skills and experience to fit roles to the work on offer, saying looser rules tempt workers to switch jobs with ease and strain household budgets and family life.

The government set out a different view.

It said a domestic worker who has finished a permit or contract may apply for a new, independent permit like any other employee.

A draft law to keep such workers in household service or send them home, it argued, would place an unjustified curb on freedoms protected by the Constitution, namely the freedom to choose work and the freedom to contract, which may only be limited in rare, well-founded cases.

The government added that the plan would run against the



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- MP MARIAM AL SAYEGH

Labour Law for the Private Sector on equal treatment and Bahrain's duties under ILO Convention No. 111 on discrimination in work.

Warning

They warned of overlap and conflict between the Labour Market law and the Labour Law for the Private Sector, which would cut against aims of a fair, clear and efficient market.

The government said there is no clear need for new law and called for a rethink that keeps order in the labour market while upholding rights given to all workers in the Kingdom.

Passenger numbers top seven million at Bahrain Airport

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Bahrain International Airport handled more than seven million passengers in the first nine months of 2025, with September traffic at 766,394, up 7 per cent on the same month last year, according to Civil Aviation Affairs at the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications.

September broke down into

405,279 arrivals, 361,111 departures and roughly 4,000 transit passengers.

Aircraft movements totalled 8,377 for the month, split between 4,191 arrivals and 4,186 departures. A further 43,741 aircraft crossed Bahrain's airspace.

Cargo and airmail were busy as well. Handling in September came to about 34,115 tonnes: 13,507 tonnes inbound, 8,442 tonnes outbound and 12,166

tonnes in transshipment.

Earlier months show a steady run. August recorded around 951,795 passengers and 9,029 flights; July 865,753 passengers and 8,748 flights; June 780,771 passengers; May about 744,625; April more than 808,793.

In the first quarter, March registered about 594,824 passengers and February 736,625, while January stood at roughly 820,000.

Public health and safety first

● Animals' spread in streets and housing areas is causing nuisance and direct risk to residents

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Packs of stray dogs roaming neighbourhoods have triggered new concern in Muharraq, with councillors set to demand firmer action on Monday.

Council member Fadhil Al Oud said the animals' spread in streets and housing areas is causing a nuisance and a direct risk to residents, spoiling the look of districts and adding to animal waste.

He warned of disease and parasites, a higher chance of minor accidents for drivers and pedestrians, and rising fear among



“The spread of these animals has become a direct concern for residents. Fixing gaps in the system would be a basic step towards bringing the numbers down.”

- FADHIL AL OUD, MUHARRAQ MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBER

children and older people in some spots.

“The spread of these animals

has become a direct concern for residents,” he said. “Fixing gaps in the system would be a basic step towards bringing the numbers down.”

He said current steps have fallen short despite an annual spend of about BD209,000 on trapping, shelter and care.

The councilor called for a close review of the rules for importing dogs and cats, stronger follow-up once animals enter the Kingdom, and a clear account of how the yearly sum is used.

In parallel, Black Gold Equipment Hiring has lodged the lone bid, BD209,500, for a Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture tender to run stray-dog trapping.

Tender papers set a full service across the four governorates, Capital, Muharraq, Northern and Southern, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027, with teams responding to rou-



Current steps have fallen short despite an annual spend of about BD209,000 on trapping, shelter and care.

tine and emergency call-outs.

Rehoming

The plan goes beyond catching. It covers housing and rehoming, and applies across residential, shop and factory zones as well as open public ground.

Any provider must follow the Animal Welfare Law No. 52 of 2014 to keep people safe and treat animals humanely.