

# Bill proposes **removal of paid debts** from credit history

Proponents say it supports consumer rights, entrepreneurship, and responsible debt management

● The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry warns it could weaken credit-report reliability and increase credit risk.

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Parliament will debate on Tuesday a bill that would let customers remove entries for fully settled debts from their credit reports.

The Financial and Economic Affairs Committee has recom-



mended approval by a majority of members present. The two-article bill would add clause (d) to Article 68 bis 3 of the Central Bank of Bahrain and Financial Institutions Law (Law No. 64 of 2006), allowing customers to request the deletion of credit-report entries once proof of full settlement is provided.

Proponent MP Mohammed Al Maarifi said the change supports Bahrain's economic vision and consumer rights, encouraging entrepreneurship by ensuring past debts do not hinder new ventures. He added that allowing deletions could help households manage debt responsibly and relieve financial stress.

The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry opposed the move, warning that processing requests through BENEFIT Company could complicate data management and increase credit risk if documentation checks are insufficient. The Chamber argued that removing debt history contradicts international practice, weakens credit report reliability, and could undermine trust between lenders and customers.

If enacted, the law would take effect the day after publication in the Official Gazette, with the Prime Minister and relevant ministers responsible for implementation.



A credit report can affect more than just loans—it can influence your ability to rent an apartment, get a mobile phone plan, or even secure certain jobs. Lenders, landlords, and some employers often check credit history to assess financial responsibility and reliability.

## Push for a walking track for Southern Governorate

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Members will on Tuesday vote on a plan to build a public walking track for the Seventh Constituency in the Southern Governorate. The Services Committee wants it passed, saying the case for it is sound.

Put forward by MP Dr Ali Al Nuaimi, the proposal seeks a purpose-built track for residents of Wadi Al-Sail, Jary Al Shaikh, West Riffa, A'ali and Al Rawda. The aim is to provide a safe place to walk and run close to home.

The Ministry of Municipalities Affairs backs the idea in principle. It says it will carry out the project once a suitable site is set aside and funds are available. The ministry also notes nearby



Representative image

places already used for exercise: Zayed Town Park in Block 718 A'ali walking area in Block 734 with a one-kilometre loop and shaded play and fitness areas; by Hoorat A'ali, about 800 metres long; the Riffa Park in Block 942 with children's play areas

and planting; and Esteqlal Walkway in Block 934, East Riffa, which has a rubber surface plus football and basketball courts.

As for Wadi Al-Sail, a December 2020 plan from the Southern Municipal Council did not proceed. The chosen plot overlaps the right-of-way of Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Highway and the land is not held by the ministry.

The General Sports Authority says it is ready to support what serves the sporting public within its remit. Under Decree No. 61 of 2021 and Decision No. 2 of 2021, its role covers licensing, regulation, oversight and grants for sports bodies.

The Southern Municipal Council raises no objection, saying a track would encourage everyday exercise in the area.

## Domestic worker jailed for using employer's mobile app to steal money

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A domestic worker has been sentenced to one year in prison, fined 1,000 dinars, and ordered deported after the First High Criminal Court found she stole money from her employer using a mobile finance app and a memorised bank card PIN.

The defendant, an African national, was employed in the home of a woman in her sixties. She carried out the transfers while the employer was hospitalised, sending money to another woman.

The victim noticed a 180-dinar transfer on her phone and asked her sister to check the account. Investigators found four transfers totaling 778 dinars.

The recipient, also an African national, admitted receiving

the money, apologised, and returned it, saying she accepted the sums to pass them to the defendant's relatives. The defendant told investigators she sent the money claiming it would help renew her residence permit in Bahrain. She confessed in court.

The Public Prosecution charged that in 2025 the defendant accessed the victim's account without lawful cause, using her bank card PIN and electronic signature, and acted in conjunction with another person who was unaware of the criminal intent, to carry out the transfers.

## Four men arrested in **drug ring** case

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Four men were arrested after security teams dismantled an alleged drug ring. The First High Criminal Court set the hearing for 28 October.

Investigators, acting on confidential tips, traced a group importing, manufacturing, and distributing narcotics for profit. Surveillance identified three suspects handling the receipt and distribution of drugs, and a fourth suspected of manufacturing and "cooking" the substances.

The group reportedly broke down large batches into smaller packs and used 'dead drop' caches to avoid detection. During surveillance, the first de-



Picture for representation only

endant was seen driving with the second, who appeared im-

paired. Both were followed to their residence; the second de-

endant briefly returned to the car carrying a bag.

Around 12:30am, officers raided the address, arresting

the first and second defendants and seizing tools and material suspected to be narcotics. An administrative search of their car yielded additional drug-related items.

Subsequent investigations led to the arrest of the third and fourth defendants. The fourth was found manufacturing psychotropic substances using precursors smuggled in secretly.

The Public Prosecution charged the first and second defendants with participation in an international smuggling gang, possession, acquisition, and sale of narcotics and psychotropic substances with intent to traffic. The third and fourth were charged with trafficking, and all four with drug use.