

The Food Truck That Was Never Delivered

Workshop locked, calls unanswered – owner files police complaint after months of delays and broken promises

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

A Bahraini entrepreneur says his dream of expanding his food truck business has collapsed after paying BD1,500 in cash to have a custom vehicle built – only for work to stop halfway and the fabricator to vanish. He has since filed a police complaint and shared his story exclusively with The Daily Tribune.

The owner had outgrown his small food cabin and wanted a larger truck that would let him scale up and join Bahrain’s food delivery platforms. An earlier attempt failed when his intended vehicle could not be licensed, and ready-made trucks were out of his budget.

He eventually found a Bahraini fabricator offering custom-built food trucks and chose him deliberately to keep the work local. After discussing his financial situation, the price was adjusted to something he could afford. On June 17, he handed over BD1,500 in cash – around 80 per cent of the agreed total – after being told materials had to



be purchased upfront.

He began visiting the workshop almost daily from June 22. What he found was silence. Calls went unanswered, messages about design details were ignored, and progress was minimal. The fabricator later apologised, citing illness. The owner accepted the explanation and waited another two weeks before construction finally began.

Work moved briefly. The floor was welded and the steel frame was completed. Then everything stopped. The premises were locked, calls went un-

answered and the unfinished truck sat untouched.

While travelling abroad, the owner was contacted by the fabricator – not with an update, but with a request for the remaining balance, claiming the original payment was exhausted. The owner refused, arguing the work completed was far short of what was agreed. Contact ended after that.

Back in Bahrain, people familiar with the area warned him about the business. He checked official records and found the workshop appeared to be oper-

“This wasn’t just a vehicle to me—it was my livelihood and my family’s future. I trusted a local business, paid in good faith, and now I’m left with nothing but an incomplete truck and a police case.”

ating under a commercial registration cancelled in 2020.

A relative of the fabricator later promised to finish the truck within three days. Those three days stretched into weeks of assurances with no action. When the owner asked to retrieve his materials and take the project elsewhere, he says he was threatened.

He filed a police complaint shortly after.

“I am just a Bahraini looking for my livelihood,” he told The Daily Tribune. He said he came forward not to recover his money alone, but out of concern that others may have faced the same situation over several years.

Building Future Leaders Through PM Fellowship Programme

Visit highlights Bahrain’s efforts to develop national talent and strengthen government excellence

Dr. Shaikh Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, met participants of the 11th cohort of the Prime Minister’s Fellowship Programme, highlighting Bahrain’s commitment to developing national talent and preparing future leaders.

The minister said the programme reflects the Kingdom’s ongoing efforts to equip young professionals with the knowledge, expertise and leadership skills needed to enhance government performance and support sustainable development.

He emphasised that the initiative forms part of Bahrain’s comprehensive development vision led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and supported by the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

During the meeting, Dr. Shaikh Abdulla outlined the ministry’s responsibilities, strategic projects and key initiatives, including the Civil Aviation Affairs strategy and development plans



aimed at strengthening Bahrain’s role as a regional transport and logistics hub.

He encouraged the participants to embrace teamwork, innovation, excellence and responsibility, in line with the “Team Bahrain” approach to achieving national goals.

As part of the visit, the participants toured several key facilities, including Bahrain International Airport, the Air Traffic Control Building, the Meteorological Directorate, Khalifa Bin Salman Port, the Postal Sorting Centre and the public transport bus depot.

They were briefed on the ministry’s operational systems, services and major projects across the aviation, maritime, postal and public transport sectors.



Proposal Targets Unfair Credit Card Charges

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Mohammed Darwish

A proposal seeks tougher checks on banks and finance firms accused of hitting credit card users with unfair fees, interest and harsh account action.

MPs Zainab Abdulameer

and Khalid BuAnaq want clear rules on how card issuers treat customers as complaints rise among citizens and residents.

They said some cardholders had been left under added financial strain by the way accounts were run, with debts piling up and trust in banks taking a hit.



Zainab Abdulameer, MP



The plan calls on the Central Bank of Bahrain to keep a closer watch on card providers and make sure they follow banking rules. It also seeks curbs on fees and interest that have no fair grounds.

The MPs said new rules were needed to give cus-

tomers a fair deal and stop lenders from using their stronger place in card contracts against them.

MPs warn that delays could leave families with heavier debts. They said tougher checks were needed to curb unfair treatment and rebuild trust in the financial sector.

Shrimp Fishing Resumes August 1

Authorities say the annual restriction supports sustainable fishing and safeguards marine resources

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Neethu V

Supreme Council for the Environment announced the lifting of the seasonal ban on shrimp fishing in the Kingdom’s territorial waters starting Saturday, August 1, 2026, following the end of the restriction period that began in early February.

The General Directorate of Marine Resources said the ban on shrimp fishing, trading and sale was introduced to protect shrimp stocks during their fertilisation and reproduction period, ensuring the sustainability of marine resources and supporting availability in local markets during the fishing season.

The reopening is expected to bring fresh Bahraini shrimp back to consumers, as demand remains strong for locally caught varieties.

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, Central Market vendor Shankar said fresh Bahraini shrimp is always in high demand, with larger varieties typically priced around BD2.5 to BD4 per kilogram.

He noted that the market



Vendors at the Central Market



currently sees mostly frozen prawns imported from Saudi Arabia, while customers continue to prefer fresh local shrimp once the season resumes.

The Directorate praised the cooperation of fishermen and relevant entities in implementing the ban, highlighting their role in protecting Bah-

rain’s marine resources and promoting sustainable fishing practices.

With the lifting of the ban, fishermen can resume shrimp harvesting activities, marking the return of a traditional sector that contributes to local seafood supplies and supports livelihoods within coastal communities.



From
The Court

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Rehab Mohammad

Prosecution Appeals Acquittal in Terror Financing Case

Public Prosecution has filed a cassation appeal against the acquittal of a defendant accused of financing terrorism and supporting fugitive terrorist elements in Iran.

The Head of the Terrorist Crimes Prosecution said separate investigations into alleged money laundering and terrorism financing are continuing.

Prosecutors allege the defendant collected more than BD21 million over the past five years and transferred funds to fugitives in Iran to finance terrorist activities targeting the Kingdom.

Authorities said the new investigation will proceed separately, reaffirming their commitment to pursuing terrorism financing

Repeat Offender Jailed Five Years Over Mall Theft Attempt

Bahrain’s First High Criminal Court sentenced a 24-year-old repeat offender to five years in prison for attempting to steal electronic devices from a shopping complex and assaulting an employee during the incident.

According to prosecutors, the man attacked an employee with an iron scissor after being discov-

ered inside the complex’s office section. Security guards later pursued him as he fled, recovering some of the stolen items.

The defendant admitted the charges, while medical reports confirmed the victim suffered an injury to his left ear. The court ordered the sentence to be enforced immediately.

Man Jailed One Year for Forging Vehicle Documents

A 22-year-old man was sentenced to one year in prison for forging vehicle ownership transfer documents and selling two vehicles belonging to another person.

The First High Criminal Court also ordered the confiscation of the forged documents.

The case arose after the victim entrusted the defendant with

completing registration and insurance procedures for his vehicles. The victim later discovered through the eTraffic system that ownership had been transferred without his knowledge.

Investigators confirmed the transfer forms contained forged signatures, and the defendant was also convicted of misappropriating the victim’s property.

Domestic Worker Fined BD100,000 for Money Laundering

The First High Criminal Court sentenced an Asian domestic worker to five years in prison, fined her BD100,000, and ordered her deportation after serving her sentence in a money laundering case involving BD22,250.

The court also ordered the confiscation of BD22,250 from her funds or assets linked to the offence and directed her to repay BD775,810 held in her bank and financial accounts to the victim.

The 30-year-old woman was convicted of laundering proceeds obtained from crimes involving misuse of an electronic signature, submitting false information through an information technology system, and unauthorised access to an IT system.

According to court documents, the offences took place between September 6 and October 22, 2025, during which the defendant transferred and used illegally obtained funds through local and international transactions to conceal their source.