

What Happens to Bahrain’s Leftover Food?

Saving Food Before It Reaches the Bin



● **Bahrain throws away more than 400 tonnes of food every day, with daily waste rising to over 600 tonnes during Ramadan.**

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

More than 400 tonnes of food are thrown away in Bahrain every day, with the amount rising above 600 tonnes during Ramadan, according to the Supreme Council for Environment.

The scale of household waste is also significant. The UN Environment Programme’s Food Waste Index estimates that Bahrain generates 132kg of household food waste per person each year, the highest figure among Arab countries. The annual waste is estimated at around 146,000 tonnes, with a value of about BD95 million.

Food accounts for around half of the waste deposited at the Askar landfill, highlighting the scale of the challenge.

One of the main efforts to recover edible surplus is led by the Conserving Bounties Society, which operates the Bahrain Food Bank. Established in 2014, the society collects untouched surplus food from hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, weddings and corporate events before repacking and distributing it to families

and low-income workers.

The society rescued 230 tonnes of food last year, compared with 183 tonnes in 2024, working with 66 hotels, restaurants, supermarkets and cafés.

Muharraq Municipality has also joined the effort through an agreement with the society to encourage businesses to donate suitable surplus food. Plans also include converting food unsuitable for redistribution into fertiliser.

Another approach involves surplus food apps, which allow restaurants, cafés and bakeries to sell unsold products at discounts of up to 70 per cent.

While rescue efforts are expanding, reducing waste at its source remains crucial. Buying only what is needed, planning meals, storing food properly and using leftovers can help households reduce the amount reaching landfills.



Members of the Conserving Bounties Society pack untouched surplus food left over from an event

New Rules Guide Bahrain Staff Probes

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Rehab Mohammad

New procedures have been introduced for investigating government employees who are not in senior positions, setting out how investigations should be conducted and the responsibilities of government entities, employees and the Civil Service Bureau.

The Chairman of the Civil Service Bureau, Shaikh Duaij bin Salman Al Khalifa, issued Decision No. (4) of 2026 on Civil Service Instructions for investigation procedures involving employees who are not in senior positions and those considered equivalent.

The instructions aim to organise the work of investigation committees responsible for examining alleged violations by employees.



Shaikh Duaij bin Salman Al Khalifa

They also explain the roles of the investigation committee, the government entity, the Civil Service Bureau and the employee, as well as the safeguards that must be provided to employees during an investigation.

Under the instructions, the Civil Service Bureau will provide technical and legal advice to officials and relevant staff in government entities on how to apply the instructions and the accompanying guide.

Government entities must form an investigation committee through a decision by the competent authority. They must also check the job levels of the committee’s chairperson and members before issuing the decision to form the committee.

The government entity must notify the employee of the decision to investigate and take the necessary action based on the committee’s recommendations, in line with the Civil Service Law and its Executive Regulations.

If the committee recommends a salary deduction of more than one month up to dismissal from service, the employee must be referred to a disciplinary board through a decision issued by the Chairman of the Civil Service Bureau. The referral decision must clearly state the actions

attributed to the employee.

The instructions also require disciplinary penalties to be entered into the Human Resources Management Information System (Horison) after approval by the competent authority.

Employees must cooperate with the investigation committee, including signing to confirm that they have received the notice of their investigation, the violations they are accused of and the date of the investigation. They must also attend when summoned and answer the committee’s questions.

At the end of the investigation, the employee must sign the investigation record. If the employee cannot read or write, their right thumbprint will be used instead of a signature after their statements have been read to them.

22 heroin capsules hidden inside body

Asian man gets life sentence and BD10,000 fine

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Rehab Mohammad

An Asian man attempted to smuggle 22 capsules filled with heroin into Bahrain after being recruited by an international drug trafficking network, according to case records.

The man arrived in Bahrain by air after agreeing with a person in his hometown

to swallow the capsules and deliver them to another person in Bahrain in return for foreign currency. The person also paid for his flight tickets and accommodation.

Upon his arrival at Bahrain International Airport, the man was stopped and subjected to a detailed inspection through the red channel. He later admitted that he had swallowed the drug capsules.

During medical proce-

dures, he passed 22 capsules containing heroin from his body. Police also found BD275 in his possession.

During questioning, the man said he initially swallowed 16 capsules before taking the remaining capsules. Investigations indicated that he had been recruited to transport the drug shipment to Bahrain for payment.

The Public Prosecution charged him with import-

ing and possessing heroin for the purpose of trafficking without legal authorisation and referred him to the High Criminal Court.

The court sentenced him to life imprisonment, fined him BD10,000 and ordered his permanent deportation after serving his sentence.

The man appealed the ruling before the High Criminal Court of Appeal, which upheld the original judgment.

MPs Push to Scrap 32-Fils Power Band



Five MPs have lodged a Parliament bid to scrap the 32-fils electricity band charged to Bahrainis in their first home once monthly use passes 7,000 kWh, saying long months of air-conditioning can push families into the top tier.

The plan would make the third band, which starts at 5,001 kWh, the final tier with no upper limit and no rise beyond its 16-fils rate.

The current four-band scale was brought in under a ministerial resolution issued in February. It charges 3 fils per kWh for the first 3,000 kWh, 9 fils from 3,001 to 5,000, 16 fils from 5,001 to 7,000 and 32 fils above 7,000.

The proposal comes from Strategic Thinking Bloc MPs Khalid BuAnaq, Zainab Abdulameer, Ahmed Al Salloom, Hisham Al Awadhi and Mohammed Al Maarifi.

Mr BuAnaq said large families and relatives sharing the same home can also be pushed into the top band because of higher household use.

‘Many Bahraini families see their electricity and water bills jump as soon as they enter the fourth band, leaving them with monthly payments beyond what they can afford,’ he said.



“Electricity bills can surge in the fourth band”

KHALID BUANAQ, MP

He said low- and middle-income families are among those hit when several people live under one roof.

Under the MPs’ plan, all electricity use above 5,001 kWh would stay on the third-band rate of 16 fils per unit.

EWA says government electricity and water support is given to eligible Bahrainis on their primary residence account, subject to its eligibility rules.

Mr BuAnaq said Bahrain’s long hot months mean air conditioners often have to run for long periods.

‘Air conditioning is a basic need for healthy living,’ he said.

The proposal will go before the relevant parliamentary committee for study.

MPs Focus on Hormuz Economic Impact

Higher shipping, insurance and supply costs caused by disruption in the Strait of Hormuz will be high on Parliament’s economic agenda when MPs return, with further aid possible for businesses hit hardest by the strain.

MP Ahmed Al Salloom, chairman of Parliament’s Financial and Economic Affairs Committee, said the scale and duration of the damage would determine the need for more support.

Any new help, he said, should be tied to real losses, keeping Bahrainis in work and allowing firms to keep trading.

‘If shipping, insurance and supply costs remain high, or some sectors are shown to have been hit harder, there will be a need for further targeted packages based on clear criteria,’ Mr Al Salloom said.

He said the committee had approved a proposal to put BD200 million into the market through banks to help affected sectors and ease pressure on company finances.

The aim, he said, was to give viable firms access to funding so they could meet running costs and retain Bahraini workers.

Government measures introduced during the crisis included paying the April 2026 wages of insured Bahrainis in private-sector companies through the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

Tamkeen also offered grants and finance through programmes aimed at small, medium and micro businesses hit by the disruption.

Mr Al Salloom said more than 7,000 Bahraini companies had benefited from Tamkeen support.

He said emergency aid should later give way to longer-term steps such as credit guarantees, debt rescheduling and wider sources of supply.



“We need permanent GCC logistics agreements.”

MP AHMED AL SALLOOM, CHAIRMAN OF PARLIAMENT’S FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The proposed national fund for small and medium-sized enterprises would be part of that work.

Mr Al Salloom said the fund could offer cheaper finance, credit guarantees and working capital to firms that struggle to borrow from banks or do not have the guarantees lenders seek.

Supply routes will also come under close watch.

He said Bahrain’s road link with Saudi Arabia had proved crucial during the disruption, with some cargo sent through Red Sea ports before being moved overland through Saudi Arabia.

Urgent goods had also been flown in.

Mr Al Salloom called for permanent GCC deals for logistics emergencies, faster routes for food and medicines and a joint system to track stocks and shipments.

He also called for more import sources, greater storage space and minimum stock levels for basic goods.

The committee’s work in the fifth session will also cover public debt, government finances, living costs, private-sector wages, the proposed SME fund and changes to the Consumer Protection Law.

Annual Grant Proposed for Bahraini Retirees

Bahraini retirees would get a yearly cash grant to help ease rising living costs and the loss of annual pension increases under a proposal lodged in Parliament by MP Dr Munir Seroor.

The proposed ‘Annual Loyalty Grant’ would be paid once a year under rules drawn up by the government. It would sit outside the pension system and would not replace either the retirement pension or any future annual rise.

Dr Seroor said retirees had spent decades serving the country and building its institutions, while many now face higher household bills and pensions that buy less than they once did.

He said the grant would give them extra help each year and recognise the years they had spent in work.

The proposal also leaves the door open for the payment to become part of a wider scheme giving retirees benefits and services through government bodies and private firms.

Dr Seroor said its main aims were to soften the effect of suspended pension rises, help families meet higher costs and give retirees greater access to leisure, tourism and other services in Bahrain.

He said such spending would also feed money into tourism, leisure and service businesses.

The explanatory memo-



“The payment would remain separate from annual pension increases.”

- DR MUNIR SEROOR, MP

random says the payment would remain separate from pension rights.

“The grant is not a replacement for the retirement pension or the annual increase,” it says, describing it as an independent measure to recognise Bahraini retirees and improve their quality of life.

Dr Seroor said the proposal was built on the principle that people who had given years of service should continue to be recognised after retirement.

The proposal, filed under Article 68 of the Constitution and Article 12 of Parliament’s internal regulations, will go to the relevant parliamentary committee for study before MPs are asked to vote on it.