

Cyclists' death frets Bahrain

Eight cyclists have been killed this year alone

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With the increase in the deaths caused by bicycle related accidents, authorities have urged cyclists to adhere to traffic instructions, and pay extra attention. Eight cyclists have been killed this year alone.

The latest incident involved a ten-year-old cyclist who was killed in a horrific accident on Zallaq Highway in the Southern Governorate on Saturday.

Informed sources said that "Bahraini Zaid Bassam Khalaf was declared dead on the spot after a speeding car mowed him down at around 7

pm." They added that official investigation is still in process.

Speaking to *DT News* yesterday, Southern Area Municipal Council Chairman Ahmed Al Ansari expressed his sincere condolence to the boy's family. Mr. Al Ansari explained that there are several steps the authorities could follow to prevent such mishaps from recurring, such as construction of speed breakers, allocating a lane for cyclists and creating crossing points. "But all these methods are of no use if people are not educated enough," said Mr. Al Ansari.

"Awareness is the key to limit these deadly accidents. Parents



Mr. Al Ansari

should educate their children about safe traffic behaviours. Employers should do the same to their employees. Authorities should intensify constant

awareness campaigns to educate the public. And he list goes on. We are all responsible," he commented.

The councillor clarified that if residents request, a committee is usually formed to study the necessity of creating speed breakers or other facilities in each area of the country. "It consists of Works, Municipality Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry and General Directorate for Traffic officials, in addition to municipal representative and residents of the area. They look into the concentration of pedestrians and cyclists in the area, as well as the history

of traffic accidents. Speed breakers or signals would be constructed upon the results of these studies," he added.

As reported earlier, a six-year-old Bahraini boy was killed while cycling in Sanad on August 26. A week later, a 16-year-old Bahraini cyclist was killed by a truck on the road near Amwaj.

According to the latest statistics from the General Directorate of Traffic, 5 deaths, 39 serious injuries and 36 minor injuries were reported in bicycle-related accidents in 2014. In 2015, till August, seven fatal accidents, 24 serious accidents and 28 minor accidents have been reported.

Hizbollah statements denounced

Manama

The Lebanese community in Bahrain has strongly denounced a statement against Bahrain made by the Secretary General of the so-called Hizbollah on September 25. The community stressed support to the Bahraini leadership and people and condemned the provocative statement aimed at driving wedges among the Bahraini people and fuelling sectarianism.

The community members praised the good hospitality and care given to them in Bahrain, praising quick response of Lebanese Prime Minister Tamam Sallam to those defamatory statements and his emphasis on Lebanon's unwavering and clear stance supporting the Bahraini leadership and rejecting interference in its internal affairs.

The Lebanese community presented a copy of the statement to Charge D'Affaires of the Lebanese embassy in Bahrain Ibrahim Assaf, who reiterated Lebanon's stance of supporting the Bahraini leadership and rejecting interference in the Kingdom's domestic affairs.

Trust is back, says Nirapara distributor



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Nirapara products are manufactured with utmost care and traditional processing methods. The propaganda spread against Nirapara over social media was aimed at spoiling the reputation of the brand, said John Oommen, General Manager of Yaquby International, the distributor of Nirapara products.

Addressing media yesterday, he said that the Nirapara products were imported after procuring all necessary lab reports from Spice Board of India. After arrival in Bahrain, it gets certification from the lab of Ministry of Health. Therefore, there is no doubt on the quality factors, he said.

Mohammed Salman Al Haddaq, Head of Food Control Section, Ministry of Health, recently stated that Nirapara products were safe and satisfactory as per the health standards of Bahrain. The Nirapara products like chilli, coriander, and turmeric powders were recently withdrawn from Bahraini markets, as a precautionary measure, after social media circulated the report of suspension of Nirapara products in Kerala, India.

It was alleged that chilli, coriander and turmeric powders of Nirapara contained higher starch than the allowed limit. However, Mr. Al Haddaq said that spice powders taken randomly from the Kingdom's retail outlets for lab test showed

no adulteration and no higher starch content was detected.

Mr. Oommen said that the truth had come out and it was the trust and confidence of consumers that made Nirapara one of the leading brands in Bahrain.

Nirapara is one of the prominent brands of Kerala, manufacturing rice, rice flours, pickles and spices and it has presence in more than 21 countries, including the USA, Canada, European region, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and Middle East countries, he said.

Stejin John, Brand Manager of Nirapara, Anish Karakkad and Business Head of Nirapara-Middle East were present at the Press meet.

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