

# All systems go!

Directorate to roll out first phase of smart traffic cameras across Kingdom today

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Starting today, Bahrain's roads are getting a high-tech upgrade. The General Directorate of Traffic (GDT) has launched the first phase of the smart camera system, designed to monitor traffic violations in real-time and enhance road safety across the kingdom.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed that the system is fully operational and efficient under all conditions.

Awareness campaigns will intensify in the coming days, ensuring drivers understand which violations the smart cameras can detect.

### Accidents

The move comes amid a concerning start to the year, with four lives lost in January alone due to traffic accidents.

A collision in Al Qarah, Sakhir, claimed the lives of two Bahraini men, aged 31 and 29, and an eight-year-old child.



In Isa Town, a 36-year-old Asian man died after losing control of his motorcycle.

Authorities continue investigations at both sites.

### Participation

Fayeze Amin, Head of Media and Publishing at the GDT told The Daily Tribune, the importance of citizen and residents participation.

"We urge all residents to update their contact details via the eTraffic or MyGov apps. Timely alerts will help drivers stay informed and allow authorities to respond immediately," he said.

The smart camera system de-

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fects a wide range of violations, including speeding, running red lights, illegal use of the emergency lane, handheld mobile phone usage while driving, seatbelt violations, children sitting in the front seat, lane deviations, heavy vehicle lane misuse, window tint violations, repeated lane changes, and slow driving in the left lane.

Traffic statistics from 2025 highlight the urgency of these measures.

### Vehicles

Over 783,500 vehicles were registered on Bahrain's roads by August, with speeding account-

ing for 24–28% of violations, red-light infractions 16%, and illegal parking 12%.

Minor offenses included seatbelt violations (4%), mobile phone usage (1%), and expired vehicle registrations (9%).

To strengthen enforcement, the government has also introduced tougher penalties, including fines up to BD10,000 and prison terms of up to 10 years for severe cases.

With technology and awareness joining forces, Bahrain aims to make its roads safer for everyone, drivers, passengers, and pedestrians alike.

**The smart camera system uses advanced technology to detect key traffic violations in real time.**

Exceeding speed limits
Running red lights
Using the emergency vehicles lane (yellow lane)
Using a handheld mobile phone while driving
Failure to wear seatbelts by the driver and front-seat passenger
Children sitting in the front seat
Lane violations at intersections and disregard for road markings
Heavy vehicles not keeping to the right lane
Excessive window tinting
Repeated lane changes or driving slowly in the left lane
Heavy vehicle movement during peak hours



Smart camera system will go live today to track violations

## Reform agenda



Shura Council  
Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council will discuss three decree-laws in today's session, including one approving a unified GCC rulebook for international road transport and another updating parts of the law on the care, rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities.

The agenda also includes a draft law tied to an agreement to base the headquarters of an international dates observatory in the Kingdom.

Members are due to consider the Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee's report on Decree-Law No. 35 of 2025, which approves the Unified System (Law) on International Land Transport between GCC states.

### Obligations

The committee recommended backing the decree-law, saying it meets Bahrain's regional obligations and implements what the GCC Supreme Council adopted at its 43rd session, when it approved the unified system as a single set of rules meant to strengthen coordination among member states.

The committee said the decree-law also deals with delays in bringing the unified system into effect after the deadline for its application passed.

It warned that further delay could create a legal gap affecting smooth cross-border road transport within the GCC, especially as some member states, led by Saudi Arabia, have begun applying the system.

That, it said, drove urgent legislation to protect Bahraini transport firms and ensure a level playing field.

### Differences

In its report, the committee said the unified system would reduce differences between national rules and cut duplicate regulation by placing international road transport under one enforceable framework across member states.

It added that the system supports road safety by standardising technical standards and stepping up checks on vehicles and transport operations.

It also said the change would help trade and logistics by improving supply chains, the movement of goods and the competitiveness of the logistics sector.

## Where memories find second life in Hoor

Antique Souq opens each Saturday from 4pm to 9pm

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The Antique Souq in Hoor is not simply a marketplace. It is a quiet space where everyday objects from the past find renewed meaning, offering visitors a chance to reconnect with moments that once shaped daily life across generations.

Held each Saturday, the souq brings together traders and collectors who carefully display items that were once essential rather than decorative.

### Reliability

Old watches sit neatly arranged, many still ticking, reflecting a time when reliability mattered more than constant upgrades.

Nearby, car figures recall an era when design was expressive



Collectible pieces from the past

and identity mattered. Antique knives and old picture frames, objects that once belonged to lived in homes rather than display shelves.

Old kitchenware appears with visible weight and durability, reminding visitors of a period when items were made to serve for decades rather than seasons.

Rows of vintage Coca Cola and Pepsi glasses add another layer of familiarity, echoing fam-



ily gatherings and neighbourhood cafes that defined social routines.

The evolution of communication is also present.

### Technology

Medals are displayed alongside classic mobile phones such as early Nokia and BlackBerry models, symbols of a time when technology was functional and uncomplicated.

Video tapes, magazines, and old books fill several tables, preserving stories that existed long before digital screens became dominant.

A traditional landline home phone sits quietly among classic soft drink bottles, while old televisions, radios, and video cameras complete the scene, recalling evenings centred around shared experiences rather than individual screens.

## Charities already exempt from municipal fees

Mohammed Darwish  
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Charities in Bahrain are already exempt from municipal fees and can draw on state-backed support through a dedicated fund, the government has told MPs, in response to a proposal seeking to waive government service charges for charitable and civil associations.

In a written reply to the Parliament on the proposal, the government said support for

civil society groups is governed by Decree-Law No. 21 of 1989, known as the Associations Law, which provides for a special fund to support charities and private institutions working in youth, sport, and social and cultural fields.

They said the Ministry of Social Development established the National Social Work Fund under Decision No. 46 of 2005 to support charities and NGOs in meeting their aims and serving the wider community, alongside

measures aimed at improving co-ordination between organisations and easing the practical running of activities and events.

The government said registered charities, civil associations and humanitarian-purpose groups are exempt from municipal fees on their buildings and land under paragraph (d) of Article 67 of the executive regulations to Decree-Law No. 35 of 2001, the Municipalities Law, issued by Decision No. 16 of 2002.

The government, however, drew a distinction between municipal fees and electricity and water charges.

The reply said the Electricity and Water Authority contracts with private producers to supply electricity and water, and with private firms to provide materials and carry out installation and connection works for all subscribers, including charities. Those costs are met through what the authority collects from subscribers.