

Nuisance for several, daily bread for many

Roadside car washers say it earns them a living; the public says they destroy roads, harm the environment

● Authorities warn fine, deportation if found washing cars on street

● Car owners urged to install drainages on their driveways

● Workers say they earn up to BD80 a month by washing cars

● Officials say it's illegal to wash cars on public roads

● Such practices are harming environment, residents say

Zahra Ayaz
TDT | Manama

As street washing can bring dirt and grime from the car that flows into nearby roads and drains, more professional car wash services could aid in eradicating the menace of illegal car cleaners in the Kingdom.

When asked around, several claimed that they frequently struggle to cross the puddles of water left on public roads after car washing and had called for installing suitable drainages in driveways.

Throughout the residential, financial and entertainment districts, an army of migrant workers, commonly from Asia, scrub and polish the vehicles, where their average monthly wage can go up to BD 80.

For an extra 10 bucks in constant fear

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune*, Mohammed Hanif, a 33-year-old-labourer, said, "I have been working since 6 am on a construction site, and in the evening, I take bucket and rags from home and washes cars parked around coffee shops in Adliya.



A car washing man in action in Manama

I am working since 6 am on a construction site, and in the evening, I take bucket and rags from home and washes cars parked around coffee shops in Adliya. Like me, many of us work in fear of being deported, so we take this job part-time to earn an extra BD10 to BD20
MOHAMMED HANIF, A 33 YEAR-OLD-LABOURER

"Like me, many of us work in fear of being deported, so we take this job part-time to earn an extra BD10 to BD20.

"I don't think the roads are getting unclean; the water dries after a while. However, some store owners are bothered and ask us to leave.



Vehicle wash water contains pollutants like oil, grease, heavy metals, solvents and soaps. When these harmful pollutants run off our driveways and roads, they go down the storm drain and travel to our local streams, seas and finally to our plates

People who give their cars for cleaning on public roads should realise that it is also one of the most environmentally unfriendly chores we can do on the roads
A SHOP OWNER, WHO DOES NOT WANT TO BE NAMED



"We receive less money now than we did in the past, for there is more competition from car washing services."

'Less works now'

Another migrant worker, who washes the cars near Manama, told us, "Car washing has be-

come one of the common ways of raising some money for people back home.

"Sometimes we get to work, and sometimes we just stand for hours for nothing."

Fine, deportation on cards

According to sources, Immigration mainly deals with such cases.

"If found washing cars illegally, there will face fine or deportation.

Hundreds of migrant workers who allegedly ran away from their sponsors try to earn a living by washing cars.

"They are under constant threat of being sent packing from the Kingdom."

Harms environment

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune*, a shop owner, who does not want to be named, said, "People are washing their cars in the morning, leaving puddles of dirty water on the public roads."

"Car cleaners would urge owners to allow them to clean their vehicles as soon as they pulled into any nearby parking lot.

"People who give their cars for cleaning on public roads should realise that it is also one of the most environmentally unfriendly chores we can do on the roads."

Abusing Public service employee: Man gets a month in jail on appeal

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The High Court of Appeal yesterday reversed a decision repealing a one-month jail term awarded to a man for insulting a public employee.

The ruling came in an appeal filed by the Public Prosecution challenging the acquittal.

Court files say the suspect had abused a public service employee and his employer through an Instagram post.

The post, the complaint said, had offensive remarks and violated telecommunication laws in the Kingdom.

Public Prosecution said they referred the suspect to a criminal trial after interrogation and with confirmed evidence.

However, following a trial, the Court of First Instance dropped the charges and acquitted him.



Representative picture

The Public Prosecution challenged this ruling in the Court of Appeal but failed to get a favourable ruling.

Prosecutors then challenged the acquittal decision in the Court of Cassation.

Following a hearing, the Court of Cassation approved the appeal and annulled the earlier judgement repealing the jail term awarded.

Public Prosecution said the latest ruling was unanimous and confirmed a month in jail for the defendant.

Restaurant trademark battle ends with court ruling against ex-partners

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A court battle to determine the rightful owner of a restaurant trademark between a man who owns an 18-year-old restaurant and his former partners ended with the Court ruling in favour of the restaurant owner.

Court files say the plaintiff's former partners, who had waived their rights in the company, later opened a new restaurant but with the same trademark, which the plaintiff contested but backfired initially.

Plaintiff's lawyer Shahnaz said the decision to end the partnership business followed irrevocable differences.

"However, after giving up their rights, the ex-partners opened another restaurant with the same trademark.

"This is a breach of rights, and we approached a court demanding BD10,000 as compensation towards damages and removal of the trademark," the lawyer told the court, adding that the initial ruling was not in their favour.

"This made us approach the Court of Appeal, where the court ordered an investigation."

"That investigation con-



Representative picture

firmed my client as the rightful owner and creator of the trademark.

"My client has been with the restaurant for 18 years, which witnesses had also confirmed before the court.

"Their testimonies also confirmed my client as the rightful owner and creator of the trademark."

"Besides, documents also proved that the defendants had waived their rights while parting ways," the lawyer told the court.

"This makes the registration of the same trademark with the defendants' company illegal," the lawyer argued.

Accepting the argument, the court ordered the Ministry of Industry and Trade to cancel the trademark registration of the restaurant owned by the man's ex-partners.

Woman ordered to return BD1,500 dowry for renegeing on marriage promise

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A woman who had accepted BD1,500 as Maher, a gift or contribution made by the husband-to-be to his wife-to-be as a mark of respect, but later stepped away from the marriage, has been ordered by the High Sharia Court to return the money.

Lawyer Khalil Ibrahim said the bride's family had asked his client to pay a dowry of BD1,700 for agreeing to their marriage, which the man paid in November 2020.

However, a month before the engagement date, the girl said



she don't want to proceed with the engagement.

"Though my client tried to talk out the differences, the girl and her family didn't budge.

"He then requested to return the BD1,700 he paid as a dowry, but managed to get back only BD200 leading to the court battle," the lawyer told the court.

The lawyer, citing Article 4 of the Jaafari Family Law, also told

the court that the gifts made in contemplation of marriage are conditional upon a subsequent ceremonial marriage, which in this has never happened.

However, the defendant and her attorney told the court that they received the amount for repairing and preparing the marital home and not as a dowry.

The Court ruled that the money provided was conditional on the completion of the marriage, and since the defendant had renegeed on her promise, she is obliged to return the money and other gifts presented to her.

Selling totalled car: Court orders refund

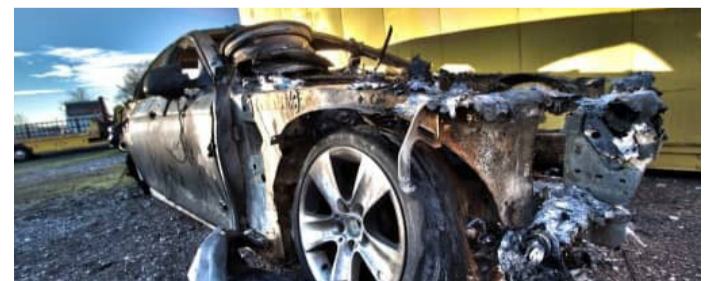
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Importing a totalled vehicle and selling it after repairing it in Bahrain after masking its accident history landed a car seller in hot waters.

The buyer of the car, who got the shock of his life after discovering the vehicle's accident history, faced the seller in court and gained an order in his favour.

The Cassation Court ordered the seller to refund the buyer the BD12,300 he paid for the car.

The Court observed that the seller had withheld critical information from the customer during the deal.



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The buyer learned about the pathetic condition of the car, only subjecting the car to a detailed inspection after issues started cropping up one after another.

However, when he contacted the seller, he ruled out refunding, leading to a court battle.

The Court ruling stated that the car had 'major' defects, which could be found only by an expert, with the papers of the vehicle lacking such information that affects the price.

The Court said the sales contract now stands cancelled, ruling for a refund.