

# Sharp Rise in Fire Incidents

Summer Heat Fuels Dangerous Rise in Home Fires

TDT | Manama  
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With the onset of summer, fire incidents are climbing across Bahrain, with several cases reported in recent weeks. As previously reported by TDT, 1,189 fires were recorded in the first half of 2024, compared to 5,900 in the same period of 2025.

The General Directorate of Civil Defence largely links the surge to negligence, ranging from children handling flammable materials to the unsafe use of electrical appliances.

Adding to this, summer means air conditioners are running longer, harder, and almost non-stop. While they keep homes livable, they also quietly push household electrical systems to their limits, raising the risk of fires caused by overload, overheating, and faulty wiring.

Civil Defence warns that most home fires stem from routine lapses such as poor maintenance and exceeding electrical limits. Air conditioners pose an added risk when not regularly serviced due to dust buildup, poor ventilation, and worn components that can lead to faults and overheating.

Experts emphasize simple



Civil Defence at a recent fire incident site, working to contain the blaze.

prevention: balance electrical loads, avoid unsafe extensions, and service cooling systems regularly. Smoke detectors also remain vital for early fire detection and prevention.

## Fire Liability Depends on Cause

On the legal side, liability may extend beyond the affected unit depending on the cause of the fire. Speaking to The Daily Trib-

une, lawyer Afaf Tarada said, "If the fire does not originate from your apartment and is not caused by your own negligence, liability may fall on the other party involved. Determining responsibility requires official Civil Defence reports to establish the cause of the fire and identify those at fault."

The statement highlights the importance of formal investi-

gations in residential fire cases, particularly where damage can spread between multiple apartments.

Beyond legal accountability, real-life incidents also underline how minor oversights can sometimes lead to significant damage. Speaking to TDT, a resident named Anjali Nair recalled a recent cooking oil fire incident in her friend's apartment that

was fortunately contained before it could spread further. She added that it quickly spread to a wooden cupboard installed directly above the cooktop.

She added that, in hindsight, greater attention to such small details in everyday living and design could help prevent similar incidents. As the saying goes, small cracks can bring down the wall.



"The cause of the fire determines who is legally responsible."

LAWYER AFAF TARADA

## Insurance Fraud Case

TDT | Manama  
Rehab Mohammad

Court of Cassation rejected an appeal filed by an Asian man convicted in a forged document and insurance fraud case, upholding a 10-year prison sentence, the Public Prosecution said.

The court also upheld an earlier ruling ordering the defendants to jointly pay 5,001 Bahraini dinars in temporary civil compensation to the affected insurance company.

According to the Capital Governorate Prosecution, the case began after Al-Hoorra Police Station received a report concerning a disputed life insurance claim worth \$500,000.

Investigations showed that the first defendant had applied for a life insurance policy in favour of his wife, the third defendant. The company was later informed that the insured person had died, prompting the wife—assisted by her brother, the second defendant—to file a civil claim and obtain a court order for payment.

Suspicion arose within the insurance company, which commissioned an external investigation. The findings reportedly confirmed that the insured person was still alive and that the submitted death certificate had been forged.

The court also ordered the deportation of two defendants after serving their sentences, alongside the civil compensation order.

## Parliament Seat Bid Moves From Numbers to Procedure

TDT | Manama  
Mohammed Darwish

A bid to strip three MPs of their seats cannot take effect by being filed alone. It must pass through a formal path of notice, committee review, a chance for the members concerned to answer the case, and then a two-thirds vote in Parliament.

That path has come into sharper view as more MPs add their names to the move against Abdulnabi Salman, Mahdi Al Shuwaikh and Mamdouh Al Saleh. The case now rests on procedure as well as numbers, with the Constitution and Parliament's internal rules giving the chamber the final say.

Article 99 of the Constitution states that an MP's membership ends if, during the term, the member is found to have lost one of the

required conditions for holding the seat. Membership can also be ended over loss of trust and standing, or breach of parliamentary duties. In all such cases, the decision needs the approval of two-thirds of Parliament's members.

The internal rules allow at least 10 MPs to submit a written request to the Speaker seeking to strip a member of his or her seat. The request must give reasons tied to the grounds named in Article 99.

Once the request is filed, the Speaker checks that it meets the formal requirements, sends a copy to the MP concerned, and places it on the agenda of the next sitting. Parliament then decides on referring it to the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee.

The committee cannot begin its review until the MP has been notified to attend at a stated time. The member must be given at least



Abdulnabi Salman, MP

three days' notice before the meeting, must be heard, and must be allowed to present a defence. The MP may also ask another member of Parliament to assist during the discussion.

If the member does not attend, a second notice must be sent under the same rules. If the absence continues without an accepted excuse, the committee may carry on and finish its work.

## Fully digital system streamlines hiring procedures

Ministry of Labour introduced an upgraded digital service allowing employers to track applications and inquiries more efficiently, as part of ongoing government efforts to improve service quality and streamline procedures.

The newly developed service enables employers to communicate directly with ministry coordinators through the national employment platform, facilitating faster follow-up on recruitment processes while ensuring full documentation of interactions.

Under the upgrade, the service delivery time has been reduced from five working days to just one, representing a minimum 25 percent improvement in service-level agreements. The ministry said the



"The launch underscores our ongoing efforts to improve service quality and operational efficiency, further strengthening the labour system's effectiveness."

SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SALMAN BIN MOHAMMED AL KHALIFA, LABOUR MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY

service is fully digitised, with 100 percent of processes now handled electronically via the nation-

al platform, alongside complete automation of procedural steps.

Enhancements also include an improved user interface and simplified procedures aimed at saving time and effort for beneficiaries while boosting overall government efficiency.

The development comes amid wider government initiatives to modernise public services, with more than 1,300 services documented, translated and published. Around 800 of these have undergone development and re-engineering across various sectors, based on feedback from the national suggestions and complaints system "Tawasul", investor input and service evaluation reports, including "mystery shopper" assessments.

## SIU Records Key Testimonies

TDT | Manama  
Rehab Mohammad

Special Investigation Unit (SIU) received 14 complaints during the first third of 2026 involving allegations within its jurisdiction, according to Acting Advocate General and SIU head Mohammed Khalid Al-Hazaa.

In a statement outlining the unit's operational and investigative activity, Al-Hazaa said investigators heard testimony from 19 complainants and witnesses and interrogated 16 suspects and accused individuals, all of whom were law enforcement personnel.

He added that six complainants were referred to the Forensic Medicine and Psychological Support Division as part of ongoing investigations, in line with established procedures for evidence collection and victim support.

### Detainee death case

In one case, following the completion of investigations into a detainee's death, the SIU referred an accused person in custody to the High Criminal Court. Investigators found that the accused had assaulted the detainee, resulting in his death. The first hearing in the case was held on May 4, 2026.

Separately, disciplinary proceedings led to sanctions against two police officers after investigations confirmed legal violations that warranted accountability, the statement said.

### Statistics of the work of the SIU during the first third of 2026



"All complaints received during the period were handled in accordance with established legal procedures, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and respect for due process."

MOHAMMED KHALID AL-HAZAA, ACTING ADVOCATE GENERAL AND HEAD OF THE SIU

## Deportation After Sentence

The court has reduced the prison sentence of an Asian woman convicted of human trafficking and ordered her deportation after completing her term, the Public Prosecution said.

The First High Criminal Court lowered the sentence from 15 years to five years following an objection to an earlier in-absentia ruling.

The defendant was found guilty of trafficking a fellow Asian woman between August and November 2019 by recruiting, transporting and harbouring her for prostitution through coercion, threats and deception.

Prosecutors said the victim was initially promised a job in Bahrain but was instead forced into prostitution after arriving in the country. She later escaped and reported the case to authorities.

The court also ordered the defendant's permanent deportation upon completion of her sentence.

## Asian man jailed 5 years

A 26-year-old Asian man was sentenced to five years in prison and fined BD 3,000 by Bahrain's High Criminal Court for defrauding a Bahraini woman of BD 1,030 in an online scam.

The court found that the defendant, working with an unidentified accomplice, impersonated a company employee and tricked the victim into sharing a one-time password (OTP) and banking details,

which allowed access to her account.

The Public Prosecution said the fraud, carried out on April 22, 2024, involved misusing electronic credentials to illegally transfer funds from the victim's account.

Investigations showed that BD 1,000 was transferred to the defendant's account and withdrawn the same day. A further AED 9,913.50 was also linked to the case.