

Think Before You Download

Fake Apps Posing as Bahrain News Alerts Raise Cybersecurity Concerns

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Mobile phone users have been urged to review the permissions granted to their apps after Bahrain's Interior Ministry warned that cybercriminals are increasingly disguising malicious software as legitimate applications, including fake Bahrain news alert services.

Colonel Osama Bahar of the Interior Ministry said one of the easiest ways to identify a suspicious application is to examine the permissions it requests.

"If a torch app asks for your location, users should question why it needs that information," he said, noting that unnecessary permission requests are often a key indicator of malicious intent.

According to a study cited by Colonel Bahar, around 450,000 malicious applications are created every day by cybercriminals seeking to steal personal information and compromise users' devices.

The National Cyber Security Centre has also warned about applications claiming to provide updates and alerts on developments in Bahrain.

Colonel Bahar said many of these apps were found to be disguised hacking tools designed to infiltrate mobile devices and access sensitive information.

To reduce the risk of infection, he advised users to install applications only from official plat-



forms such as Apple's App Store, Google Play Store and Huawei AppGallery, where security screening helps limit malicious software.

He also urged users to carefully review the permissions requested by every app before installation.

Watch for Unusual Permissions

Colonel Bahar explained that some applications appear legitimate but request access unrelated to their intended function. For example, an app displaying tide information should not require access to a user's location, contacts or screen content.

He described screen-reading permissions as particularly dangerous because they can allow malicious apps to monitor sensitive information displayed on a device, including banking details, without the user's knowledge.

Applications requesting permission to operate continuously in the background may also present significant security risks. Review Existing Apps



"If a torch app asks for your location, users should question why it needs that information"

- COLONEL OSAMA BAHAR

As a final precaution, users were encouraged to regularly review the permissions already granted on their devices and delete any applications they no longer use or trust.

The Interior Ministry stressed that downloading apps only from trusted sources and carefully monitoring permission requests remain among the most effective ways to protect personal data from cyber threats.

Night Works Face 9pm Cut-Off Call

Proposal follows complaints of overnight construction noise continuing until dawn in residential neighbourhoods

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Mohammed Darwish

Night-time building work in residential streets should stop by 9pm after families complained of noise carrying on until dawn, a municipal councillor has said.

Ahmed Al Abdullah, Southern Municipal Council member, called on service bodies and contractors to bring in firm working hours for schemes near homes.

He said residents had lodged many complaints about crews working through the night, with some sites remaining active until the early morning.

The latest complaints concern Noon Street in Block 915, where

work has run from 9pm until 5am. Al Abdullah said the noise had disturbed sleep and left families struggling to rest in their own homes.

He accepted that Bahrain's summer midday work ban can force contractors to shift their hours. But he said the burden should not be passed on to residents at night.

Housing areas, he said, must be treated differently from business or industrial zones because families have a right to peace and privacy.

Al Abdullah called for service bodies to agree working hours with contractors before each scheme begins and to draw up clear rules for sites close to homes. He said road and public



Ahmed Al Abdullah, Southern Municipal Council member

works must be finished without needless delay, but speed should not come at the cost of sleep, calm or family life.

Cutting night noise, he added, should be built into every work plan for residential districts rather than dealt with only after complaints are made.

Three Detained Over Drug Possession

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The Ministry of Interior announced the arrest of three individuals for possessing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as part of ongoing efforts to protect the community from drug-related crimes.

According to the ministry, officers from the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science's Anti-Narcotics Directorate launched an investigation immediately after receiving in-



formation about the case. The inquiry led to the identification and arrest of the suspects.

Authorities said the suspects were found in possession of quantities of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, which were seized as evidence.

The ministry confirmed that the necessary legal procedures are complete and the case has been referred to the Public Prosecution for further action.

They Didn't Wait to Grow Up to Innovate

Education Ministry highlights two students whose projects in sustainability and entrepreneurship have gained national and international acclaim

TDT | Manama
Hasan Barakat

Two Bahraini students have been recognised for turning creative ideas into successful projects: one developed eco-friendly products from seashells and the other designed and sold an educational board game while still in school.

The achievements of Zainab Adel Al Shuwaikh and Mohammed Fayeز Al Aali are featured in the Ministry of Education's "Our Students... Inspiring Stories" campaign, which showcases students across Bahrain whose accomplishments extend beyond academic excellence.

A second-year secondary student at Sar Secondary Girls School, Zainab transformed sea-



Zainab Adel Al Shuwaikh

shells collected from Bahrain's coastline into Sadaf, an environmental project that produces three sustainable products: a natural plant fertiliser, a fabric stain remover and an organic pesticide.

Her innovation has earned widespread recognition. Zainab



Mohammed Fayeز Al Aali

secured first place globally at the Global Investment Conference 2024, won the Future Scientists research competition among Bahrain's schools, and claimed third place in the Arab world at the Shaikha Fadia Al Sabah Award for developing an organic nutrient capsule for plants. Her

earlier projects included a natural plant fertiliser and an electrical device designed to reduce water consumption.

Beyond science, Zainab has also distinguished herself in literature. She placed third in the "We Write in Arabic" competition organised by Bahrain Islamic Bank, won the Sharjah Young Writers Initiative, and finished second in a youth short story competition organised by Bahrain Trust.

She said her interest in agriculture began at a young age before expanding into a passion for science and environmental sustainability, leading her to join her school's GLOBE team. According to Zainab, innovation starts with asking questions and searching for practical solutions, inspiring her to transform ideas

into projects that benefit society.

She also credited the administration and teachers at Sar Secondary Girls School for supporting her ideas by providing guidance, equipment and an environment that encourages innovation, adding that her ambitions continue to grow.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Fayeز Al Aali, a student at Al Taawon Secondary Boys School, has gained recognition for creating Fakker Zain, an educational game developed with classmates as part of the Injaz Bahrain Company Programme 2025.

The project received an intellectual property registration certificate from the Ministry of Information, and the game was later marketed and sold during public events, including the Bah-

rain Reads exhibition organised by the Graduates Club.

Mohammed has also earned the internationally recognised ESP certificate for young entrepreneurs in recognition of his achievements in entrepreneurship and innovation.

In addition to his entrepreneurial work, he has been active in media initiatives, presenting an introductory video on the National Service Initiative at a Ministry of Education seminar and participating in the school's Nafahat Ramadaniya awareness programme.

The Ministry of Education's campaign continues to spotlight students whose creativity, innovation and determination are making a positive impact both inside and outside the classroom.

Friendship Loan of BD100,000 Ends in Bahrain Court Judgment

Rehab Mohammad
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High Civil Court ordered a borrower to repay BD100,000 to a lender after ruling the money was provided as a private loan between friends. The court also held the borrower's company jointly liable after a guarantee cheque issued on its account was returned unpaid.

According to lawyer Mohammed Al Makhloq, who represented the plaintiff, the dispute arose after the lender agreed to provide BD100,000 to a friend seeking financial assistance. The two signed a private loan agreement confirming the amount, with the borrower undertaking to repay the loan by a specified date. As security for the debt, the



borrower issued a cheque drawn on his company's account.

The borrower, however, failed to repay the loan when it became due, and the guarantee cheque was dishonoured due to insufficient funds.

Al Makhloq said the Minor Criminal Court had previously convicted the borrower in the bounced cheque case, sentencing him to one year in prison and ordering his deportation after serving the sentence.

In its judgment, the High Civil Court found that the signed loan agreement clearly estab-

lished that the first defendant borrowed BD100,000 and agreed to repay it by July 25, 2025. The court also noted that the cheque issued for the same amount in favour of the plaintiff was returned unpaid due to insufficient funds.

The court further observed that neither the borrower nor the company appeared before the Case Management Office or during the court proceedings to present a defence.

As a result, the court ruled that the borrower remained liable for the unpaid debt and failed to honour the loan agreement. It also held the company jointly and severally liable because the guarantee cheque was issued from its account, ordering both defendants to pay the plaintiff BD100,000.

Four Livestock Carcasses Found Near Oyster Bed

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Mohammed Darwish

A crew feared they had found a body at sea before drawing close and seeing the swollen carcass of a bull, one of four dead livestock found floating near the Hayr Shtayyah oyster bed.

Ali Ibrahim Al Khudri said the group was heading out to gather oysters when it spotted an object rising above the water about five kilometres from the bed. From roughly two kilometres away, its shape led them to fear it was a person.

They turned towards it and found the bloated carcass of a bull. After filming the scene, they carried on with their trip. Three other livestock carcasses were seen as the group sailed

back towards Bahrain at about noon, Mr Al Khudri said. It remains unclear where the animals came from or how they ended up in the sea.

Mr Al Khudri said they might have fallen or been thrown from a livestock ship, perhaps after falling ill. He made clear, however, that this was only his own guess and was not based on proof or information from the authorities.

No statement has yet been issued on any sea search or inquiry into the find.

A bloated bull carcass floats alongside a boat near the Hayr Shtayyah oyster bed after being spotted by a group of oyster gatherers on August 04.

