

## Push for urgent road maintenance

**Hasan Barakat**  
TDT | Manama

The Northern Municipal Council has called for urgent action to address road maintenance issues in the Ninth District, warning that delays are worsening daily conditions for residents and increasing safety risks.

The issue was raised during the council's Ordinary Session 11, following complaints submitted by council member Abdullah Mubarak Bilal Al Qubaisi.

Members highlighted a rise in reports related to damaged road surfaces, uneven levels and repeated water accumulation in several areas of the district.

Residents, councillors said, have complained that deteriorating road conditions are causing inconvenience to motorists, damaging vehicles and making movement difficult for pedestrians, particularly the elderly and children.

Al Qubaisi stressed that the volume of maintenance requests has increased noticeably, reflecting long standing neglect in some locations.

# Revenge killing

Two defendants tell court killing 'retaliation' for cousin's death 12 years ago

**Mohammed Darwish**  
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Two men accused of murdering a man in his fifties told a court yesterday they stabbed him to death in revenge for the killing of their cousin more than 12 years ago, as the Public Prosecution played CCTV footage and sought the maximum penalty.

The defendants, aged 25 and 28, told the High Criminal Court they stabbed the victim, who shared their Asian nationality, during the opening session of the trial.

Prosecutors said the men claimed the victim had killed their cousin in their home country years earlier.

### Attack

They tracked him for two months, the court heard, before lying in wait close to his residence and carrying out the attack.

Footage played in court showed the first defendant checking the area about 90 minutes before the killing, prosecutors said.



Image used for illustrative purposes only

tors said.

Further recordings captured both men attacking the victim near his home until he fell and died.

The Public Prosecution said the case began after Northern Governorate Police reported finding a body in an alley in Budaiya with multiple stab wounds.

### Statements

Investigators examined the scene and took witness state-

ments, which, along with camera recordings, pointed to the two defendants.

Police arrested them as they tried to leave Bahrain, prosecutors told the court.

The weapons were later recovered after the defendants led officers to where they had been left.

The men gave detailed confessions during questioning, the court heard, saying the long-running dispute drove them to plan the killing.



The man died from stab and incised wounds in different parts of his body, consistent with the seized weapons.

They described waiting near the victim's home, stabbing him several times, then fleeing.

### Stab

A forensic pathologist concluded the man died from stab and incised wounds in different parts of his body, consistent with the seized weapons.

Laboratory tests found the victim's blood and cells on the defendants' clothing and on both weapons, prosecutors said. Proceedings are continuing.

## Reckless driver remanded in custody

● Car stunt at major intersection

**Rehab Mohammad**  
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The Public Prosecutor and Head of the Traffic Prosecution said that the Public Prosecution received a report from the General Traffic Directorate regarding a driver who carried out reckless car stunts at a major intersection in the Northern Governorate, putting his life and the safety of other road users at risk.

The vehicle was circulated for identification, and the driver was later arrested.

Following the report, the Public Prosecution immediately launched an investigation, during which the defendant was questioned and confronted with a video recording of the incident.

The defendant admitted to the charges.

Accordingly, the Public Prosecution ordered the defendant to be remanded in custody pending investigation, in preparation for referring him to criminal trial.

# Girl, 8, to get passport after being denied papers since birth

**Mohammed Darwish**  
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An eight-year-old girl will get her passport and identity card after the High Civil Court ruled she has been a citizen since birth.

The child, born in 2018, had no passport or identity card since birth.

The Court ordered the authorities to hand the documents to her father and record the decision in their registers.

Her parents went to court after their request was not met.

They relied on a Sharia ruling confirming the child's lin-

eage to her father, and a civil judgment ordering the issuance of her birth certificate, but the documents were still not issued.

The case was brought by lawyer Jassim Al Issa, who asked the court to compel the authorities to issue the papers and deliver them to the father.

The defence argued the claim should be thrown out because there was no formal administrative refusal to challenge.

### Argument

The judges rejected that argument, saying an administrative decision does not need to



The court ruled that citizenship follows from birth and that the child is entitled to a Bahraini passport.

be set out in writing and can be inferred from an authority's



Jassim Al Issa, lawyer conduct.

The way the request was han-

dled could only be understood as a refusal, the court found.

It then turned to the law, citing provisions that restrict passports to Bahraini nationals and treat a person as Bahraini if born to a Bahraini father, once lineage is established under Sharia.

### Citizenship

On that basis, the court held that citizenship follows from birth and that the child is entitled to a Bahraini passport.

The judgment also referred to the population register and identity card rules, which require individuals to be registered, as-

signed a personal number and issued an identity card containing their identifying and civil details.

The court found the child was born in Bahrain to a Bahraini father, that her lineage had been established and that it was not disputed.

### Records

It ruled she is Bahraini by operation of law and entitled to both documents, ordering the authorities to issue them and record the matter in their official records.

The court ordered the family to pay the costs of the case.

## 'Poor lighting' leaves walkways unsafe at night

**Hasan Barakat**  
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Members of the Northern Municipal Council raised clear safety concerns over poor lighting along public walkways in Hamad Town, warning that repeated failures leave residents exposed to risk during night time hours.

The issue was discussed during the council's Ordinary Session 11, with members stressing that the problem has remained unresolved despite ongoing complaints.

Abdullah Mubarak Bilal Al Qubaisi and Abdullah Al Thawadi said that lighting units installed along the walkways often stop working after midnight due to preset timers.

### Darkness

As a result, residents who walk or exercise at night are forced to move in near darkness.

Members also noted that the lights frequently fail during



Poor lighting along public walkways in Hamad Town

rainy weather or stop working without warning.

The council heard that maintenance is often slow, with some lighting faults taking weeks or even months to be repaired.

Members pointed out that some companies responsible for maintenance do not have

sufficient spare parts available locally, which causes long delays and leaves walkways unlit for extended periods.

### Impact

Members stressed that the issue goes beyond inconvenience. Poor lighting affects public

safety, particularly for families, elderly residents and women who use the walkways in the evening.

Several areas were described as becoming unsafe and unwelcoming after dark, discouraging residents from using public spaces meant to promote healthy lifestyles.



Lighting units installed along the walkways often stop working after midnight due to preset timers.

## Northern Council moves to address growing needs at Budaiya Cemetery



Maintenance work at Budaiya Cemetery

**Hasan Barakat**  
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The Northern Municipal Council has raised concerns over the growing needs of Budaiya Cemetery, stressing the importance of urgent co-ordination between relevant authorities to ensure the site continues to serve the community in a dignified and organised manner.

The issue was discussed under the "Other Business" agenda during the council's Ordinary Session 11.

Members highlighted that

the cemetery is facing increasing pressure due to population growth in surrounding areas, creating a need to review capacity, maintenance requirements and overall readiness.

Councillors stressed that cemetery services are a sensitive matter closely linked to public dignity, religious practices and community wellbeing, and should therefore be addressed without delay.

The council will raise an official letter to the Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, requesting coordination with the Justice Minister.