

'Road safety a shared responsibility'

Neethu V
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Ministry of Interior, through the General Directorate of Traffic, continues to ramp up its 2026 road safety efforts, focusing on awareness, safer driving behaviour, and stronger enforcement in Bahrain.

In the past month, more than 10 major road traffic accidents were recorded.

In the past week alone, two young lives were lost in separate incidents, renewing calls for greater caution on the roads. 2025 reports show over 900 traffic accidents in Bahrain.

Authorities continue to highlight speeding, distracted driving, and failure to follow traffic rules as key causes of road incidents, while urging compliance with safety practices including seatbelt use, avoiding mobile phone use while driving, proper vehicle maintenance, and adherence to traffic signals.

Bahrain's participation in the annual GCC Traffic Week, alongside other GCC nations, under the theme "Cross Safely", aims to promote road safety awareness and highlights its importance in protecting lives and property.

The campaign encourages pedestrians, especially children, to use designated crossings and wait for vehicles to stop before crossing.

Director-General of Traffic Major-General Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa highlighted communi-



Traffic police officers across GCC countries intensify road safety awareness and enforcement during GCC Traffic Week 2026

ty awareness as key to reflecting Bahrain's civilized image, stressing the role of parents in instilling traffic culture in children to build a responsible generation that follows road safety rules.

The Ministry has intensified efforts to curb dangerous road behaviour, reflecting a stricter approach to traffic violations.

Safety

These measures include a new initiative equipping motorcycles in official convoys with electronic plate systems to guide drivers on safe conduct when convoys pass, which helps regulate traffic flow and enhance safety.

Notably, the first phase of the Smart Camera System was

rolled out on February 1, 2026, to automatically enforce rules on speeding, mobile phone use, seatbelt compliance and signal violations.

This follows Royal Decree Law No. 30 of 2025, issued in August 2025, which amends the 2014 Traffic Law to enhance road safety and introduces tougher penalties, including fines of up to BD 10,000 and imprisonment of up to 10 years for severe offences such as reckless driving, drunk driving, running red lights, and excessive speeding.

The public is also encouraged to report minor, non-injury accidents through the eTraffic app or call 199 to ease congestion and improve response times.

Similarly, in the UAE, road

safety efforts are increasingly driven by technology, with AI systems, traffic monitoring drones, and interactive tools such as awareness robots used in public spaces to simulate real-life violations and educate the public.

Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait are also adopting a mix of awareness and engagement strategies, including virtual reality-based learning, nationwide campaigns with enforcement, and strengthened outreach in schools and public spaces to promote safer driving and pedestrian behavior.

The message across GCC is simple: road safety is a shared responsibility that requires consistent discipline from all road users.

Minister reviews summer work ban

Preparations underway for annual safety conference and exhibition



H.E. Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf with Council officials

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Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, labour and legal affairs minister, chaired the second meeting of the Occupational Safety and Health Council on Saturday, stressing the importance of strengthening workplace safety standards across the kingdom.

Khalaf said occupational safety and health remained a key pillar in protecting workers and improving productivity, according to a statement issued after the meeting.

He highlighted ongoing efforts to develop legislation and awareness programmes aimed at ensuring safe and sustain-

able working environments across Bahrain's productive sectors.

The council reviewed the latest updates on implementing its 2026 awareness and guidance programmes related to occupational health and safety.

Officials also discussed preparations for enforcing Decision No. 5 of 2026 regulating the summer midday work ban, which restricts outdoor work during peak heat hours.

The meeting further reviewed the latest arrangements for the sixth National Occupational Safety and Health Conference and Exhibition, scheduled to be held later this year in Bahrain.

Press Strengthens National Unity

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The Chief of Police, Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan, affirmed that the Bahraini press will remain a key pillar of national work due to the royal care of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

He highlighted the role of the Bahraini press and its national and civilisational responsibilities in building the modern state, under the blessed efforts of the government, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

The Chief said that celebrating Bahraini Press Day is a national duty and an appreciation of journalism's role and its noble message in protecting society's civilisational values, consolidating its national achievements and prin-

ciples through honest words, and strengthening national awareness as an expression of society's voice and in service of its interests.

He explained that the integration and coordination between the local press and the Ministry of Interior's police media represent a distinguished model of national work and the integration of roles among its institutions.



Lt-General Tariq Al Hassan

Pollution concerns grow at Seef Beach

Hasan Barakat
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Waste, glass and construction debris now cover parts of Seef Beach, turning a popular coastal spot into a growing environmental and public health concern.

A field visit by The Daily Tribune recorded a noticeable increase in litter scattered across the sand, including food waste, plastic bags, bottles and containers, alongside bags filled with rubbish.

In several areas, the situation has escalated further, with construction debris such as wood, bricks and metal left exposed along the shoreline.

Visitors described the scene as deeply concerning, saying a place once known for its calm setting is being increasingly neglected.

They noted that pollution becomes more visible during the winter months, when larger numbers of people visit the beach to enjoy the milder weather.

One regular jogger said he has repeatedly witnessed trucks arriving in the early morning hours, allegedly dumping construction waste along the beach.

Environmental concerns have also been raised by sustainability advocate Kai Khalid Miethig, who warned that beach pollu-



Garbage at the beach poses serious and growing environmental issue



This doesn't just affect the natural beauty, it damages the marine environment and turns the water into a health risk.

KAI KHALID MIETHIG

tion is a serious and escalating issue, largely driven by human behaviour.

He explained that waste left

behind by visitors—including plastic bottles, bags, food wrappers and cigarette butts—is often carried by wind and tides,

spreading across the shoreline and into the sea.

Miethig noted that many types of waste break down into microplastics, which spread through seawater and can mix with other contaminants, particularly in areas lacking proper waste management systems.

He warned that polluted beaches can pose direct risks to human health, including skin irritation, eye infections and stomach illnesses caused by exposure to contaminated water.

Seven-Year-Old Indian Boy Dies

After Falling from Building in Bahrain

Pradeep Puravankara
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A seven-year-old Indian boy died in Bahrain after accidentally falling from a residential building.

The deceased, Derick Joseph Jismon, was the only child of Jismon and Aksa, an Indian expatriate couple.

Derick was a second-grade student at the Indian School Bahrain.

The tragic incident occurred at the family's second-floor apartment near the American Mission Hospital.

Reports indicate that the boy accidentally fell through an open window of the flat.

Following the fall, neighbors



Derick Joseph Jismon

rushed him to the Salmaniya Medical Complex.

Despite receiving specialized care in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), he succumbed to his injuries.

The loss has sent a wave of grief through the Indian community in Bahrain and among his schoolmates and teachers.