

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Small Step Towards Safer Roads

The proposal to stop restaurants and cafés from serving customers who illegally double-park while waiting for takeaway orders is a welcome step.

Every evening, busy restaurants and tea shops can become difficult to navigate when vehicles block lanes or entrances. While customers may only intend to stop for a few minutes, these small stops can quickly create congestion and inconvenience for other road users.

Restaurants also have a role to play. Refusing service to customers who deliberately park illegally could encourage better behaviour without placing the entire responsibility on traffic authorities.

At the same time, enforcement should be fair and clearly communicated. Customers should know where they can safely stop, while businesses should have reasonable arrangements for takeaway collections.

If implemented properly, the proposal could help make busy areas safer, less congested and more orderly.

Mohammed Al Hassan

A Necessary Step to Keep Our Roads Safe

The decision to regulate the use of electric bicycles and scooters is a welcome and necessary step toward making our roads safer.

While these vehicles offer a convenient and environmentally friendly way to travel, their increasing use also brings responsibilities. Clear age restrictions are particularly important. Children may not always have the experience or judgment needed to safely navigate roads and interact with other road users.

I believe parents have an especially important role to play. Allowing a child to ride without proper supervision can put not only the child but also pedestrians and motorists at risk.

The requirement to wear helmets and protective equipment should also be taken seriously. A short journey without safety gear can have serious consequences in the event of an accident.

The 25km/h speed limit and restrictions on using high-speed roads, vehicle lanes and emergency lanes are equally important. Electric bicycles and scooters should complement our transport system, not create additional dangers.

Ultimately, regulations can only work when people understand and respect them. Continued awareness campaigns, combined with enforcement, will help ensure that electric mobility remains safe and responsible for everyone.

This decision should therefore be viewed not as a restriction, but as a measure to protect lives.

Ahmed

A smoke-free Bahrain is a healthier Bahrain

A recent Lancet study highlighting the devastating global impact of second-hand smoke should encourage every country to examine whether its existing protections are strong enough. Nearly 1.7 million people reportedly die each year from exposure to second-hand smoke, while around 2.7 billion people, including 767 million children, remain exposed.

For Bahrain, this should be more than a global health statistic. It is an opportunity to strengthen protection for families, children and other vulnerable people from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke.

Bahrain could consider stronger enforcement of smoke-free regulations in public areas, workplaces and other shared spaces, while also encouraging smoke-free homes and vehicles where children are present. Clearer public awareness campaigns could help families understand that second-hand smoke is not simply an inconvenience but a serious health risk.

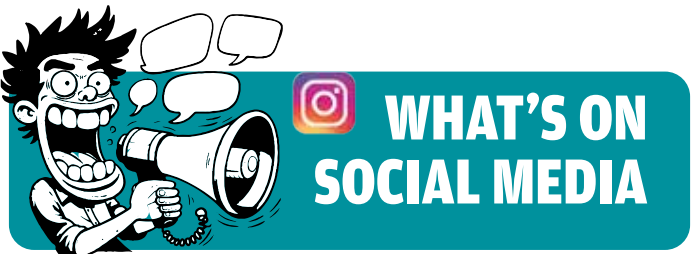
The country has the opportunity to take a stronger preventive approach by making smoke-free environments the norm rather than the exception.

Protecting people who choose not to smoke—particularly children—should be a shared responsibility. Stronger enforcement, public awareness and community participation could help Bahrain reduce preventable exposure and contribute to a healthier society.

Hamsa Sherif, Manama Resident



Photo : Manoj Makhija



Second-Hand Smoke Kills Nearly 1.7M Globally, Study Finds

A Lancet study reveals that second-hand smoke kills nearly 1.7 million people annually. With 2.7 billion exposed globally, including 767 million children, health experts urge governments to enforce stricter tobacco controls in homes and public spaces to save vulnerable lives.

TOP COMMENTS

- hirenjsagar**

Night clubs are the worst spot for non-smokers and secondhand smoke.
- purnov_n_ahmed**

It's global issue who cares
- ab_1111z**

2.6 million deaths globally each year cuz of alcohol nobody will say anything just target smokers
- ifra_javed06**

Governments should issue fines for smoking in public areas, just as they do for breaking other laws. This would discourage people from picking up the habit and prevent addiction..
- thief.of.bahrain**

Smoking in public is very bad. It should be banned totally in Bahrain
- ees.81**

Then stop selling it!!!



Protecting Consumers from Price Gouging Amid Shipping Disruptions

Ongoing regional conflicts and severe maritime disruptions along critical shipping corridors—most notably the Strait of Hormuz—have undeniably strained Gulf supply chains. With vessel rerouting, heightened security tariffs, and escalating marine insurance premiums, a modest increase in the retail price of imported food items is an understandable economic outcome. However, what should be a transparent and proportionate cost adjustment is increasingly being exploited by opportunistic traders engaging in deliberate price gouging and speculative markups.

Across local markets, consumers face sharp, unjustified price hikes on essential everyday staples that far outpace actual freight and logistics cost increases. Most concerning is the widespread practice of applying these elevated retail rates to older warehouse inventory imported long before current shipping disruptions occurred. Using public anxiety over regional instability as leverage to maximize profit margins places an unfair financial burden directly on fixed-income and middle-class families already balancing essential living expenses.

While external geopolitical conflicts and global shipping bottlenecks remain beyond domestic control, local market practices fall squarely under national regulatory oversight. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce’s Consumer Protection Directorate must take immediate, decisive action by deploying field inspection teams across wholesale and retail distribution networks. Authorities must rigorously audit import invoices, cross-referencing genuine freight receipts against retail shelf tags to separate authentic supply chain cost increases from artificial inflation.

Enforcing strict administrative fines, business closures, and public disclosures against violators will send a clear message that commercial exploitation during a crisis will not be tolerated. Implementing robust market surveillance and protecting residents from speculative pricing is essential to safeguarding household stability and preserving consumer trust across the Kingdom.

Mohammed Jaffer, Manama

WORD SEARCH

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A	I	N	S	S	T	V	P	I	S	N	I	I	N
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STATES
VOLCANOES
SNOW
PLAINS
RIVER
CITIES
CONTINENT
ROADS
GLACIER
TUNDRA

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RAIN
TOWNS
LAKE