

Passengers allege Red Bus team running unpunctual services

Commuters blame authority for mismanagement; say no efforts to alleviate their sufferings

TDT | Manama
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Red buses were introduced in the Kingdom to boost its public transport system, but many passengers allege that it has no way helped the system flourish.

They attribute its “below-average performance” to unpunctual services coupled with poor customer care.

A good number of Red Bus customers are low-income workers, who don’t know where to complain about these unpunctual services, sources said.

The sources also added that many a time the buses are stop-



The Bahrain Transport Company runs services across 32 routes, say sources.

ping its services mid-way, forcing people to board other buses running in the route.

Even the Android app launched by the company, which helps in live tracking of the bus, often, goes defunct, testing the common man’s patience further.

Many people, who depend on the bus service, are blaming the authority for its mismanagement.

They allege that drivers cut the trip half way, saying that their duty hours are done.

“While the authorities are pretty interested in running A1 service properly, they are never bothered about other services, namely service No.19, the only service connecting Manama, Salmabad and East Riffa,” Santhosh, a regular commuter on Manama-Salmabad route alleged.

“This is not only the case of this single route, as other routes also face similar problems,” he accused.

“We have to wait almost one hour to get a bus in the evenings to reach Manama while there are a good number of buses covering the A1 route.

“These services are only wasting the money of the company and are not aimed at the benefit of passengers. Because of these unpunctual services, people are forced to rent or hire cars, worsening the ever-increasing traffic congestion.

Highlighting the plight of passengers, Vinod Kumar, another commuter said, “The other day, I was travelling in No.19 bus from Salmabad to Manama. Mid-way, the driver stopped the bus and asked the passengers to board another bus, which was parked in front.”



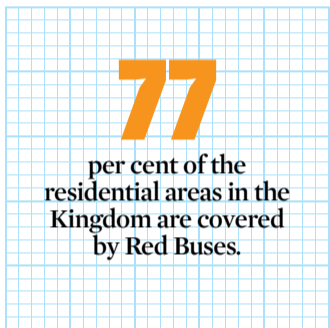
This is not the first time. Many time I have been forced to disembark the bus and board another in the mid-way. This is nothing but insulting the passengers.

MR KUMAR

“This is not the first time. Many time I have been forced to disembark the bus and board another in the mid-way. This is nothing but insulting the passengers.”

Commuters are of the opinion that the authorities should find a better solution to this issue at the earliest, for the service now only benefits the pockets of the Company employees.

At present, the Bahrain Transport Company runs services across 32 routes, covering almost 77 per cent of the residential areas in the Kingdom.



Theft gang, including two Iranians, arrested

● An Investigation was launched after several cases were reported and the suspects were identified and arrested in different locations.

Manama

The Director-General of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science

announced yesterday the arrest of a five-member theft gang, including two Iranians.

They are accused of stealing jewellery, expensive watches and mobile phones from homes.

They have stolen items worth more than BD50,000, according to the director-general.

He said that three of the suspects acted like bicycling enthusiasts to spot their targeted homes, especially big villas, while the other two broke into

these houses and the three waited for them outside to alert them.

An Investigation was launched after several cases were reported and the suspects were identified and arrested in different locations.

The theft equipment and a large part of the stolen items were seized.

He said that legal procedures were taken and the case was referred to the Public Prosecution.

Bahrain takes part in migration conference

Marrakesh

Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) Chief Executive Officer Asumah Al Absi lead the Kingdom’s delega-

tion to the International Migration Conference.

He underlined the initiatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which are destinations for international immigrants, stressing dedicated efforts to update institutional and legal structures that regulate expatriates’ rights and duties.

Addressing the opening session, he reiterated Bahrain’s support to all efforts and initiatives aimed to promote the legal status of expatriate workers all over the world and protect them from exploitation.

He highlighted Bahrain’s strides to promote the situation of expatriate workers, citing particularly the flexi-work permit scheme and the national referral system.

The LMRA chief also led Bahrain’s delegation to the 11th edition of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GMFD), which was held December 5-7 in Marrakesh under the theme “Honouring International Commitments to Unlock the Potential of all Migrants for Development”.



Mr Al Absi speaking at the conference.

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