

## Smoke and Gas Detectors Recommended for Every Home



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### Early Warning Systems Save Lives

Authorities stress that household fires and accidents can be significantly reduced by following basic safety and security requirements recommended by the General Directorate of Civil Defence. Officials highlighted the importance of ensuring that all protective measures are properly implemented in homes, villas, and residential projects.

The guidance includes installing essential safety devices such as smoke detectors and gas leak alarms, which are widely available in the market.

Civil Defence noted that these devices are designed to trigger alarms in the event of fire, gas leaks, or carbon dioxide buildup inside homes, particularly during nighttime hours.

Such early warning systems can play a crucial role in reducing injuries and limiting property damage. Smoke detectors typically operate using standard batteries, which are easily replaceable, and are also designed to alert users when battery power is low. Many systems continue functioning even during power outages.

- Install smoke and gas detectors for early fire warnings.
- Keep emergency exits clear and easily accessible at all times.
- Do not block windows with fixed iron bars that prevent escape.
- Place fire extinguishers in key areas, especially kitchens, and maintain them regularly.
- Check electrical wiring and appliances to prevent faults and fire risks.
- Use automatic circuit breakers for added electrical safety.
- Turn off gas cylinders immediately after use.
- Dispose of cigarettes and shisha ash safely to avoid accidental fires.

## From Pearl Trade to Living Memory

### When Manama Souq Was the Beating Heart of Bahrain

TDT | Manama  
Ghadeer Alkumaish

Before modern shopping malls reshaped Bahrain's retail landscape, Manama Souq stood as the Kingdom's main commercial hub, where trade, culture, and daily life converged. Today, Bahraini businessman Nabeel Ajoor, born in 1961, is calling for the preservation of the souq's rich memory, drawing on his family's long connection to its textile trade dating back to 1932.

The story highlights the cultural and economic importance of Manama Souq, not only as a historic marketplace but also as a symbol of Bahrain's identity. Through personal memories and historical accounts, Nabeel Ajoor reflects on how the souq shaped generations of merchants, workers, and families, and why documenting its heritage is essential as the area continues to evolve.

Nabeel Ajoor, who chose to continue his family's textile business instead of pursuing studies abroad, is a partner in "Abdullahman and Ibrahim Mohamed Ajoor & Partners," a company deeply rooted in the commercial history of Manama Souq.

He recalls the souq's most iconic sector, the pearl market known as "Souq Al Tawawish," where pearls were displayed in small elevated shops, laid out on fine carpets and red or velvet-covered tables. The space was carefully or-



**"Without proper documentation, we risk losing a vital part of Bahrain's national heritage and collective memory as modernisation continues."**

- NABEEL AJOOR, BAHRAINI BUSINESSMAN



Pearl Market (Souq Al Tawawish): Pearl trading, weighing, and selling hub



A traditional transport point where donkeys were rented to carry goods and purchases before modern

ganised for sorting, weighing, and selling pearls, reflecting the precision and value of Bahrain's historic pearl trade.

Another important part of the marketplace was (Wednesday Market), which played a vital social and economic role, particularly for Bahraini women. During the months when pearl divers were away at sea, women became the backbone of household income, selling goods such as perfumes, handmade crafts, clothing, sewing products, and cosmetics.

Women would set up their stalls early in the morning and continue selling until the afternoon, demonstrating resilience, independence, and economic contribution at a time when family survival often depended on their efforts.

The souq also included early transport services such as donkey rentals, which were used to carry goods and purchases home before the arrival of modern transport systems such as trucks and buses.

Beyond these well-known sections, Manama Souq was

also a marketplace for almost everything, with dedicated areas for textiles, gold, and traditional goods. One of the most distinctive sections was Souq Al Safafir, known for copper craftsmen who produced traditional cooking pots and utensils, reflecting the diversity of trades that once defined the souq's economic life.

Nabeel Ajoor emphasizes that Manama Souq was more than a marketplace. It was a space of coexistence where different communities, professions, and cultures interacted daily, shaping Bahrain's long-standing values of tolerance and social unity. His family business, established in 1932, remains part of this commercial heritage and reflects the continuity of trade across generations.

As Manama continues to modernise, Nabeel Ajoor stresses that preserving the souq's stories is just as important as protecting its physical structures. He warns that without proper documentation, an essential part of Bahrain's national identity and collective memory could gradually fade away.

## Strict Summer Work Restrictions

Experts stress early planning as key to managing predictable seasonal restrictions

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Ghadeer Alkumaish

Bahrain's annual midday work ban is set to take effect tomorrow, June 15, marking the start of restrictions that prohibit work under direct sunlight from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM until August 31, 2026, as part of efforts to protect workers from extreme summer heat.

Speaking exclusively to The Daily Tribune, legal consultant and lawyer Manal Dhahi, Founder of Manal Dhahi Legal Group, discussed the measure's legal and contractual implications for the construction sector during the summer season, alongside a civil engineering perspective highlighting operational realities on site.

Under Ministerial Resolution No. (5) of 2026, employers may not require workers to perform duties in open areas under direct sunlight during the specified hours and period. The regulation forms part of Bahrain's occupational safety framework and aims to reduce heat-related risks in high-exposure sectors such as construction.

While the primary objective is worker protection, Dhahi noted that the regulation continues to impact construction contracts, project timelines, and financial obligations, as reduced working hours require contractors to reorganize schedules and adjust execution strategies to maintain progress.

She explained that the resolution does not automatically grant extensions of time or exemption from contractual liability, stressing that the outcome depends on the wording of each contract and the applicable legal framework



**Violations carry penalties under Article 192 of Bahrain's Labour Law, including up to three months' imprisonment, fines of BD500-BD1,000, and harsher penalties for repeat or large-scale breaches.**

Nemah added that because the regulation is predictable and known in advance, contractors are generally expected to incorporate it into planning, scheduling, and cost estimation from the tender stage. She further explained that any delays or additional costs arising from failure to account for the ban are typically considered part of the contractor's responsibility unless specific contractual provisions state otherwise.

On the issue of delays, she noted that the midday work ban is not usually regarded as a valid ground for extending project duration, given its predictable and annual nature.

Addressing whether there is a gap between contract terms and on-site realities, Nemah rejected this view, instead emphasizing planning efficiency. "Success in managing this requirement depends more on early planning and effective project management than on any gap between contract terms and site conditions," she said.

In conclusion, both perspectives highlight that Bahrain's midday work ban continues to reshape the construction sector not as an unexpected disruption, but as a recurring operational reality that demands stronger planning, clearer contracts, and improved risk management from the outset of every project.



**"This regulation is not merely seasonal—it is a structured legal framework that places human safety at the center of project execution."**

LAWYER MANAL DHAHI



**"Costs linked to rescheduling, night shifts, or additional resources are generally absorbed within the contractor's obligations rather than treated as compensable variations."**

REEM NEMAH, CIVIL ENGINEER

governing the project. She also emphasized the importance of documentation, stating: "In construction disputes, documentation is decisive. If it is not recorded properly, it becomes difficult to enforce later."

From an engineering perspective, civil engineer Reem Nemah told The Daily Tribune that while the midday work ban is not a new

regulation in Bahrain, its contractual treatment remains inconsistent across the sector.

"In Bahrain, the midday work ban is a recurring annual regulation. However, some construction contracts still do not clearly address its impact on time extensions or additional costs, which can create challenges during execution," she said.

## Education Ministry Sets September 3 Start for New School Year

TDT | Manama  
Hasan Barakat

Students in government schools across Bahrain will begin the new academic year on September 3, according to the 2026-2027 academic calendar approved by the Ministry of Education.

Teaching and administrative staff are scheduled to return on September 1, while student orientation days will be held on September 2 and 3.

The academic year will comprise 202 school days, with 91 days in the first semester and 111 in the second.

The first semester for all school levels, including continuing education, will run from September 3, 2026, until January 12, 2027.

Final examinations for general secondary education, parallel secondary education,

### 2026-2027 Academic Calendar

IELTS Mock Pre-test:  
October 4-8, focusing on English language skills  
Home-study student registration:  
September 8-22, 2026  
New student registration (2027-2028):  
October 18-31, 2026  
Mid-year break: January 17-28, 2027 (12 days), ending ahead of Ramadan  
Second semester begins: January 31, 2027  
Second semester ends: June 30, 2027  
Final examinations begin: May 3, 2027  
Ramadan (expected): February 8 - March 8, 2027  
Eid Al Fitr: March 9-11, 2027

and technical and vocational streams will be held from December 21, 2026, to January 12, 2027. Other exam schedules include religious intermediate certificate exams from December 24, general intermediate exams from December 28, and transfer and home-study cycle examinations from December 31 to January 12.