

# Muharraq to intensify crackdown on beggars; arrested 70 in six months

TDT | Manama

Police in the Muharraq Directorate had arrested 70 people, since the start of this year, as part of a crackdown on beggars in the area, said a top official.

Brigadier Saleh bin Rashid Al Dosari, the Director General of the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate, said most of the arrested were foreign nationals.

"We have deported all of them after taking necessary legal measures," he said.

He said the directorate is also carrying out a series of inspection campaigns to root out the phenomenon of illegal employment in association with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs of the Ministry of Interior.

Al Dosari was presenting a report on actions against beggary



Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al-Mannai, Muharraq Governor, with other officials during a security committee

in the directorate during a security committee meeting chaired by Salman bin Isa bin Hindi Al-Mannai, Muharraq Governor. During the meeting, Bin Hindi stressed the importance of intensifying security campaigns to deter this phenomenon.

He had also directed authorities to crackdown on beggars in markets and vital places, especially at tourist spots, where they create a nuisance to those who refuse to pay alms.

Directing to take action, Al-Mannai stressed the importance of intensifying security campaigns to deter this phenomenon. The orders came in the presence of Brigadier Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Jeeran, Deputy Governor of Muharraq, Brigadier Saleh bin Rashid Al Dosari, Director General of the Muharraq Governorate Police Directorate, Brigadier Sultan Al Kaabi, Deputy Director General of the Muharraq Governorate

Police Directorate, and several Internal Ministry officials.

The Governor also ordered an increase in a security presence in East Hidd and Diyar Al Muharraq, especially near construction and maintenance works.

Brigadier General Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Jeeran highlighted the dangers caused by unlicensed motorcycles and electric bikes. "These vehicles are creating grave threats to the lives of residents and riders themselves, he said, citing their non-compliance with laws, security and safety procedures.

"Riders of such vehicles are causing traffic chaos where they go," he said.

### Not just in Muharraq!

Tribune has earlier reported the issue of beggary in Manama and Gudaibiya and the inconvenience they cause to citizens and residents.

Mostly women carrying small children are seen roaming the streets in those areas, where they allegedly even enter shops asking for money from shopkeepers and customers.

However, people in the area had told Tribune that they are not seeing it as a crime but as a "social problem".

They also described the issue as a "recent phenomenon."

People have told Tribune that some of them look like coming from reasonably good families.

However, when brought the issue to the notice of Dr Anna Mostafa, a leading psychologist in the Kingdom, the doctor pointed fingers at psychological factors as "no one would want to beg or want to be destitute."

"Perhaps there are unaware of the resources available to them by charities and shelters to support them."

The doctor has also stressed

the need for increasing campaigns on service available.

### Is begging a lucrative activity?

Reports also point fingers in this direction.

Several reports say that begging has become lucrative for many in the Gulf, especially foreigners.

A recent report by gulf news says that Dubai police have arrested a female beggar from Mecca with around SR117,000 in her possession. She also had with her cash in various currencies as well as gold jewellery.

Yet another report from Kuwait says police arrested a beggar with 500,000 Kuwait dinars in his bank account from near a mosque in the capital. Another Dubai police report also says they had arrested a beggar with Dh40,000 along with other Arab and foreign currencies during Ramadan.



Believe it or not!

**Eisha had over 1 Million USD**

Eisha was 100 years old beggar when she died. After her death, Eisha's childhood friend Saeedi revealed the details of her assets which were valued at 1 million US dollars. Her fortune includes 4 buildings that were handed over to authorities after her death.



**Simon Wright - Banned from begging for being rich**

This man was banned from begging anywhere in London after it emerged he was earning £50,000 a year from begging and living in a £300,000 flat. Simon Wright was handed an Asbo after the London Magistrate heard how he would sit wearing ragged clothes outside NatWest bank in Putney High Street of London with a handwritten "homeless and hungry" sign before returning to his smart housing association home in Fulham.



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## Coast guards, ambulance crew rescue sick man from ship following SOS call

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Bahraini Coast Guards yesterday rescued a person who fell ill on a ship in the territorial waters following a distress call.

The rescue operation involved members of the National Ambulance team.

The Coast Guard Command said they received the MAYDAY call at the Navigational Watchtower of Khalifa Bin Salman port.

In response to the SOS call, "we quickly mobilised the marine patrols to the vessel."

"We also assigned a National Ambulance team to assist the patrol officers at the ship moored in the northeast direction of Bahrain."

Officers took emergency procedures to ensure the person's safety and stabilising his health



condition before transporting him ashore.

Ambulance crew rushed the man to a hospital for critical care.

## Controlling the global obesity epidemic

(Continued from page 1)

Expressing joy for being part of the effort, Dr Al-Hajri said the move reflects the interest in promoting the health of citizens and residents alike.

Dr Buthaina Ajlan of Bahrain's Nutrition Programme and Dr Dalal Al-Rumaihi, Consultant Endocrinologist and Diabetologist, Member of the National Committee for Noncommunicable Diseases and Member of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Diabetes Association, were present.

They reviewed strategies and plans adopted by the Kingdom to reduce obesity and the role of Bahrain's Diabetes Association in bringing down obesity rates.



WHO officials discussed the mechanisms through which the plan to accelerate Obesity prevention measures to be implemented in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Dr Tasneem Atatreh, the representative of the World Health Organization in Bahrain, said that choosing Bahrain that promotes and supports multisectoral partnership, political commitment, and unlimited support would enhance efforts to document and publish these experiences following scientific standards.

WHO experts also commended the achievements and efforts of Bahrain to reduce the spread of non-communicable diseases and eliminate obesity.