

Police Go, Drifters Move In

Families driven off as weekend stunts hit beach car park



TDT | Manama
Mohammed Darwish

Drifters wait for police patrols to leave Abu Subh beach before tearing round its car park on weekend nights, a councillor has said, as families stay away over the racket.

‘They know when the patrols leave. They wait, and then they start,’ Northern Municipal Council member Basem Abu Idrees told The Daily Tribune.

Youths in sports cars and on sports bikes rev engines, spin tyres and drift across the open lot, mainly on Thursday and Friday nights.

Police in uniform and plain clothes patrol the beach, but Abu Idrees said there were not enough officers to watch the site around the clock.

‘This has driven families away,’ he said. ‘Some women do not feel comfortable coming



Basem Abu Idrees, Northern Municipal Council member

without a man from the family.’

The municipality has now turned to kerbs and rubber speed humps to stop the car park being used for stunts.

Its entrance has been changed so drivers meet a kerb and must turn instead of shooting straight into the open lot at speed.

Rubber humps have also been placed between parking bays, breaking up stretches once used for drifting.

‘We took the residents’ suggestions and put in the rubber humps,’ Abu Idrees said. ‘If they

find another way round them, we will add more.’

The beach, a popular open-air spot for nearby families, has also faced vandalism.

Public toilets had been damaged. The toilets were later redone, cameras were fitted and a 200-fils entry fee was brought in.

‘The toilets are now clean 24 hours a day,’ Abu Idrees said, adding that the fee had also helped ward off vandals.

One guard watches the beach, while the municipality is seeking extra guards for Thursday and Friday nights.

Safety fears were also raised after a young girl fell from an iron playground dome and broke her arm. The structure was removed at once.

Abu Idrees said tougher safety rules would be used in planned playground work overseen by engineer Doha Al Madhoob.

BD10 Choice ‘Should Not Decide Safety’

Al Ramli block fell short of sign-up threshold before August fire

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Fire safety in housing blocks should no longer hinge on residents agreeing to pay BD10 a month, a Northern Municipal Council member said yesterday.

Dr Salman Mohsen called for the people running each block to be legally bound to keep smoke detectors, extinguishers and other fire gear in place and working.

He raised the call as the council met for the first time after its summer break, less than a month after the August 18 Al Ramli fire in which a mother and her three children died.

The Housing Ministry has since installed three permanent maintenance cabins inside the housing block as a precaution after the fire, Dr Mohsen said.

The cabins, brought in about two weeks ago, will house maintenance teams so faults can be dealt with from within the block.

Around 80 pc of housing blocks have signed up to the Owners’ Union framework, he said.

Residents pay BD10 a month and the Housing Ministry adds BD15 for each flat, giving BD25 per apartment for the upkeep of the building.



Fire-hit Al Ramli flat sealed off after the August 18 family tragedy



Three permanent maintenance cabins installed at the Al Ramli housing area after the August 18 fire



Dr Salman Mohsen, Northern Municipal Council member

Eskan Bank contracts cover fire gear, lifts, water pumps, doors, guards, CCTV and cleaning.

But the Al Ramli block was outside the scheme.

Dr Mohsen said a 24-flat building needs 19 households to sign up before the service can start. Only 14 applications were secured at the block.

‘Some did not want the BD10 deducted from their bank accounts every month’, he told The Daily Tribune.

He questioned why basic

fire protection should rest on enough neighbours agreeing to pay, particularly when, he said, ‘the residents are mainly government employees’.

Dr Mohsen said the head, deputy head and treasurer of each block should carry a legal duty to keep fire-safety equipment working.

Some blocks outside the scheme already pay for cameras, extinguishers and other equipment through agreements among residents, he said.

Residents of the Al Ramli block had said there were no fire extinguishers or smoke detectors in the building when the blaze broke out.

Dr Mohsen also welcomed the committee ordered by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, to examine the circumstances of the fire.

99.98% Compliance With Summer Midday Work Ban

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Bahrain recorded a 99.98% compliance rate with its summer midday work ban in 2026, Labour and Legal Affairs Minister Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf said as the restriction period ended.

The decision, No. (5) of 2026, was implemented from June 15 to August 31, prohibiting work in open areas under direct sunlight between 12pm and 4pm during the summer months.

The Ministry of Labour carried out 30,246 inspection visits throughout the enforcement period.



“Workplace safety strengthens productivity and performance.”

LABOUR AND LEGAL AFFAIRS MINISTER YOUSIF BIN ABDULHUSSAIN KHALAF

The inspections identified six establishments violating the decision, involving 17 workers who were found working during the prohibited hours.

The violations were referred to the competent judicial authorities for the required legal

action.

Minister said the results reflected Bahrain’s continued focus on proactive workplace protection and strengthening occupational safety and health standards. He also praised the high level of compliance

among establishments with the midday work ban.

The minister said Bahrain remains committed to developing measures to protect workers’ health and safety by improving preventive procedures and strengthening relevant policies and legislation.

He also stressed that the Ministry of Labour would continue its inspection and awareness efforts to improve workplace safety and promote a stronger culture of occupational health and safety, in line with sustainable development goals and international labour standards.

Justice Ministry Upgrades School Fee Service

New service cuts processing time to seven working days and reduces documents and approvals for eligible minors’ education payments.

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The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments has upgraded its service for monitoring the ongoing education requirements of minors, aiming to simplify and organise the payment of regular school fees for eligible students.

The service-level agreement has been reduced by at least 25%, cutting the processing time from 14 working days to seven. Required documents have also been reduced by 50%, while the service is now provided automatically.

The ministry has also standardised service information across all channels, reduced required approvals by 25% and made application forms available electronically.

Basma Mohammed Al Khayyat, Director of the Minors’



Affairs and Funds Directorate at the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, said the launch forms part of the ministry’s efforts to develop proactive services centred on beneficiaries’ needs and ensure procedures are completed on time.

She said the initiative will enhance service efficiency and improve the experience of those under guardianship and the in-



dividuals responsible for their affairs.

Al Khayyat explained that the service proactively monitors eligible cases and payment due dates. The ministry contacts educational institutions to obtain invoices and confirm that students remain enrolled, while notifying the parent or person responsible for the student to begin the payment process.

The approval and transfer

procedures are then completed, with fees transferred directly to the educational institution.

The service is designed to reduce the procedures required from parents and guardians while ensuring school fee payments continue on time. It also enables direct coordination with educational institutions to verify students’ continued enrolment and obtain updated invoices.

10 Suspects Arrested, 14kg Drugs Seized



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Anti-Narcotics Directorate arrested 10 suspects, including a woman, of various nationalities in six separate drug-related cases, the Ministry of Interior announced.

The suspects possessed around 14kg of various narcotics and psychotropic substances, with an estimated market value of approximately BD116,000.

The ministry stated that investigations based on information received by the authorities led to the identification and arrest of the suspects and the seizure of the drugs in their possession.

Legal procedures are complete to refer the cases to the Public Prosecution.

The General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science stressed the



importance of community partnership in combating drug-related crimes and urged the public to report any information via the 996 hotline or by email at 996@interior.gov.bh.

The authorities assured that all provided information would be treated with complete confidentiality.