

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pleasant Bus Ride and a Simple Request

Dear Editor,

Last week, I decided to try something that had been on my bucket list for a long time - travelling by the red public bus in Bahrain. Since the day I arrived in the Kingdom, I never really had the need to depend on public transport. I was fortunate to have friends with cars, and soon after getting a better job, I bought my own vehicle.

However, my recent bus journey turned out to be a refreshing experience. The ride was comfortable, the roads were smooth, and the system seemed well-organized. More importantly, it gave me an opportunity to meet and interact with people from different walks of life - something you rarely get to do when driving alone.

During the trip, a fellow passenger shared an important concern. He mentioned that while the red bus service is improving, most bus stops in Bahrain lack toilet facilities. For many regular commuters, especially those who have to wait long periods for buses, this is a genuine inconvenience.

He wondered - and I agree - why not consider installing at least one eco-friendly public toilet (e-toilet) at major bus stops? Such a facility would make the commuting experience far more comfortable, especially for daily passengers, senior citizens, and those travelling long routes.

I sincerely hope the concerned authorities will look into this suggestion and explore ways to make public transport in Bahrain even more user-friendly and inclusive.

-Thahir, Sitra

Non-Functional Parking Meters Causing Public Inconvenience

I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities to the persistent issue of non-functional parking meters in and around Manama

On several occasions, we find that the meters are either out of service, do not accept payment, or fail to register the transaction even after payment is made. This not only causes confusion and inconvenience to drivers but also leads to unnecessary fines when payments cannot be completed despite genuine attempts.

Parking management plays a vital role in ensuring the smooth flow of city traffic. However, when the meters remain unreliable, it undermines the efficiency of the system and affects public confidence. It would be highly appreciated if the authorities could ensure regular maintenance, system checks, and prompt repair of faulty meters. Introducing a helpline or quick-report feature via a mobile app could also help address such issues immediately.

A well-functioning parking system reflects the city's commitment to public convenience and urban efficiency - something Bahrain has always been known for.

- Vinod, Tubli

Dedicated Bicycle Lanes- a need of the day

Bahrain has made significant progress in enhancing its road infrastructure and public transportation system in recent years. Smooth highways, organised bus routes, and innovative city developments have all added to the nation's modern image. Yet, there is one thing that continues to surprise many residents - the absence of dedicated bicycle lanes.

Across the Kingdom, cycling is growing in popularity. Many young Bahrainis, expatriates, and fitness enthusiasts utilise bicycles as an eco-friendly and affordable means of commuting or exercising. However, most of them are forced to share the same roads with cars, buses, and heavy vehicles — often putting their safety at risk.

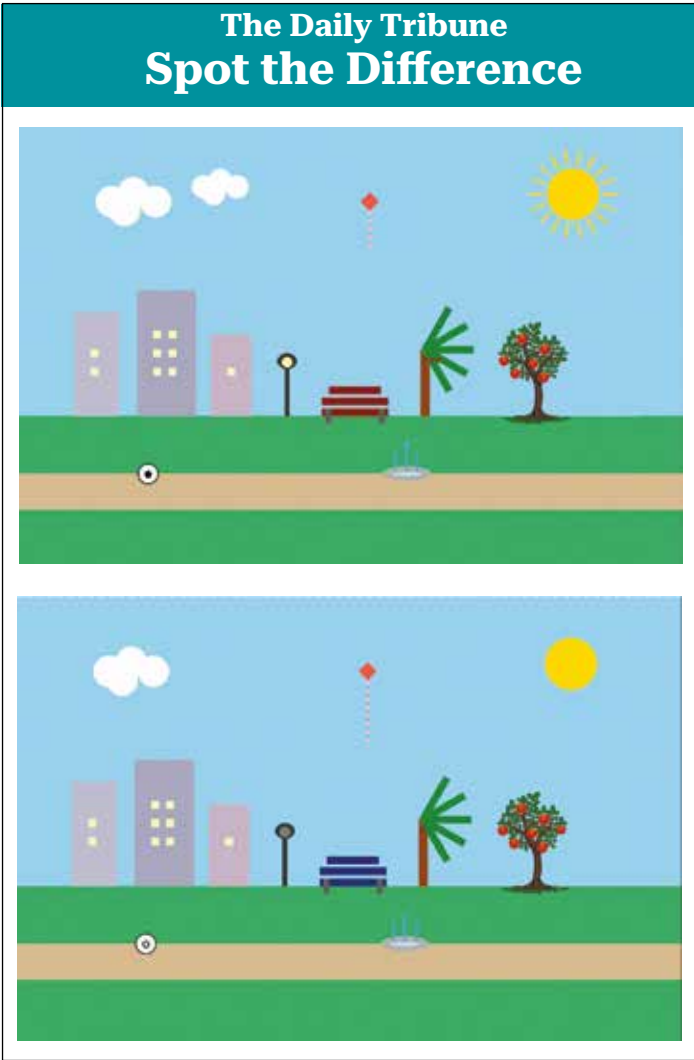
It's time for Bahrain to consider creating bicycle-friendly routes - at least in new development areas, along the Corniche, or near central residential neighbourhoods. Even a few marked lanes or weekend cycling corridors would encourage more people to pedal to work, reduce carbon emissions, and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Cycling is not just a sport; it's a sustainable mode of transport that aligns perfectly with Bahrain's Vision 2030 goals. With thoughtful planning and a few painted lines, Bahrain could become one of the most bicycle-friendly countries in the region - setting a great example for its neighbours.

Darwin, Budaiya



Photo : Shahid



4-year-old child tragically loses life inside a vehicle in Bahrain

Northern Police are investigating the incident, and the 40-year-old driver has been arrested.

This heartbreaking case raises an important question: How can we prevent this from happening again? Motion and sound sensors in transport vehicles can save lives:

- Child left behind: Detects body heat or movement in a parked vehicle
- Unauthorized access: Alerts if someone enters without permission
- Danger zone detection: Monitors areas around the vehicle
- Interior monitoring: Tracks unusual activity inside
- Audio monitoring: Detects shouting, breaking glass, or other emergencies

Technology like Passive Infrared (PIR) motion sensors and audio sensors can alert drivers, monitoring centers, or parents in real-time, ensuring children are safe.

TOP COMMENTS

- rimsha_aqfrin**
Nanny on a bus should be mandatory and marking the attendance everyday pick and drop both times. A proper managing school bus system can never experience such mishaps. This has happened multiple times in Gulf countries. Also it is important for parents to teach their children proper sleep pattern. Usually parents stay up late which effects children sleep cycle as well hence they easily doze off in school bus.
- hannigandearbhla**
Bus drivers need to check every child has alighted, this is not the first time this has happened.
- abhilashragh**
Many drivers get impatient when a school bus stops to pick up or drop off children. But those few seconds can save a life. All vehicles should stop at a safe distance and wait until the bus moves. We also need a clear rule or law that makes stopping for school buses mandatory to keep every child safe.
- vinayforever9**
Actually why the parents are leaving the children in the car , AI camera with human children detection should be invented so that the if the children are inside they car cannot be locked

An Appeal to Facilitate Interaction with Kerala Chief Minister



The upcoming visit of Kerala Chief Minister to Bahrain is eagerly awaited by the large Keralite expatriate community in the Kingdom. Among the Indian population living in Bahrain, Keralites form the single largest group, contributing significantly to the country's economy, healthcare, education, and social sectors.

While cultural receptions and public gatherings are being planned to honour the Chief Minister, it is equally important that this visit becomes an opportunity for meaningful interaction with those who wish to present their genuine concerns, grievances, or appeals directly to the visiting leader.

Many long-term expatriates face unresolved administrative or legal matters back home, related to property disputes, pension delays, or document verification, that often require intervention or facilitation by state authorities. For such individuals, a brief personal meeting or the opportunity to submit a written appeal during the Chief Minister's visit would mean a great deal.

I sincerely urge the organisers and the official delegation to create a structured channel or a short interactive session for expatriates who genuinely seek redressal. This gesture would reflect Kerala's continued care for its global citizens and strengthen the emotional and cultural bridge that binds Bahrain and Kerala.

- Rafik



We would love to hear from you.

If you have anything you'd like to say or share with us, please feel free to write to us at online@newsobahrain.com