

Two months in jail for ‘reckless’ Asian trucker



The truck was seized by the police after the ‘speeding incident’.

TDI | Manama

An Asian truck driver was yesterday sentenced to two months’ imprisonment for driving on the emergency lane on Istiqlal Highway near Sanad.

This came as the Seventh Lower Criminal Court yesterday announced its sentence, one week after the General Directorate of Traffic in Interior Ministry confirmed the arrest of the man.

The court also ordered to permanently deport the defendant after he completes his imprisonment sentence.

Traffic Prosecution Chief Prosecutor Hussain Al Sairafi said in a statement issued by the Public Prosecution yesterday that the man drove his truck over the speed limit of the road and “drove in a manner that risked motorists lives and used the emergency lane to overtake vehicles”.

As reported by Tribune last week, the trucker was seen in a viral video online while speeding and driving on the hard shoulder of Istiqlal Highway.

In the footage, the man was seen over-speeding and overtaking other vehicles using the emergency lane.

He was filmed by a concerned driver who shared the

video on local social media networks, calling the authorities to take deterrent actions against such violators, especially after the numbers of fatal accidents caused by wrong driving behaviours by truckers on the rise in the past few months.

One day after the video was circulated online, Interior Ministry announced through a tweet that the driver has been apprehended, stating: “Concerning the circulated video on social media about reckless driving by a truck driver on the road in a way that risk the safety of road users, the General Directorate of Traffic seized the vehicle and arrested the driver.”

Soon, the Public Prosecution announced that it had interrogated the driver, who confessed to his crime, before referring him to the Criminal Court.

This is the third trucker to be arrested within less than a year because of reckless driving.

This came in line with a nationwide petition calling to curb the “deadly” behaviours of truckers on the Kingdom’s roads, especially after it claimed the lives of two Bahraini drivers in the same period.

‘Bahrain Smart Cities Summit 2019’ begins

30 speakers and experts from public and private sectors attended the summit

Manama

Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Essam Khalaf has announced the opening of the first seafront project fully dependent on renewable energy (Busaiteen Seafront Project) this month.

The project, he said, will serve as a starting point for other new ones as part of the ministry’s future policy, like using solar energy in agricultural projects.

The minister was speaking as he opened yesterday “Bahrain Smart Cities Summit 2019”, in the presence of senior officials and with the participation of more than 30 keynote speakers and experts from the public and private sectors.

He noted the ministry’s keenness to carry out purposeful initiatives in developing smart cities within the framework of implementing development and infrastructure projects in accordance with modern trends.

He pointed out the ministry’s efforts to achieve the vision and contribute to attaining the global sustainable development goals by organising the fourth edition of the conference and creating an associated exhibition with the participation of over 20 parties from the public and private sectors.

The exhibition is considered the first of its kind in Bahrain concerned with smart cities.

The Kingdom hosted for the



Mr Khalaf with Dr Mirza and senior government officials and dignitaries at the opening of Smart Cities Summit 2019.

first time regional Director of the World Green Buildings Councils (GBC)’s MENA Network Mohammed Asfoor who gave a presentation on the latest developments in the green buildings sector.

In a statement to Bahrain News Agency (BNA), Electricity and Water Affairs Minister, Dr Abdulhussain Mirza said smart cities are areas built using digital and engineering technologies to improve the economic and social conditions of the residents of these cities by providing and facilitating their access to services.

He pointed out that smart cities will rely on sustainable and



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renewable energy such as solar and wind energy.

He underlined the Kingdom’s interest in the sustainable energy sector and keenness on sustainable development, pointing out the important steps taken by the government to encourage investment in renewable energy.

He also pointed out the national goals set by the government to increase the users of renewable energy to 5 per cent by 2025 and 10pc by 2030.

The first day of the summit featured many activities including panel discussions and work papers. Many awards were also announced during the summit which will continue until tomorrow with the discussion of a number of work papers.

Information Ministry’s Bahrainisation efforts under spotlight

Manama

The parliamentary probe committee in charge of investigating the non-Bahrainisation of jobs in the public and private sectors, headed by MP Ibrahim Khalid Al Nafei, held a meeting yesterday with Information Minister Ali Al Romaihi to discuss the ministry’s Bahrainisation efforts.

MP Al Nafei stressed the positive results achieved by the Ministry of Information in this respect, pointing out confirma-

tion of 70 per cent of the Bahraini employees with temporary contracts while the confirmation procedures of 50 other staff members are being finalised in coordination with the Civil Service Bureau.

He asserted that the Information Minister had promised to act swiftly to tackle the issue, adding that the minister revealed that Bahrainisation at the ministry has reached 98pc and the efforts are still on to bring the rate to 100pc.

MP Al Nafei said the meet-



ing cast light on the obstacles facing the Information Ministry, adding that the Information

Minister had underscored the need for the ministry to adjust its organisational structure in the engineering department and provide job vacancies after work had been affected by the retirement of many employees who benefited from the Voluntary Retirement Programme.

He also stated that the meeting shed light on the issue of media graduates and the role of the ministry in working out a vision in co-operation with the Civil Service Bureau and the Labour Ministry to employ them.

He pointed out the difficulty faced by many graduates in obtaining jobs that fit their specialties, stressing the ministry’s keenness to handle the issue according to available job vacancies.

He also asserted the need for Bahrain TV programmes to include the trends aimed at Bahrainising jobs and highlighting the potentials and capabilities of the Bahraini people in various fields.

The committee also demanded the Information Ministry to use the Bahrainisation rate as a

condition in signing contracts with private companies and take into consideration when awarding tenders giving priority to companies that show more interest in employing Bahrainis.

MP Al Nafei lauded the efforts of the Information Minister and his work team and their continuous cooperation with members of the Representatives Council, commending the ministry’s unrelenting Bahrainisation efforts which stem from a belief in the potentials and capabilities of the Bahraini youth.

Sri Lanka ties hailed



Labour and Social Development Minister Jameel Humaidan received Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Bahrain, Pradeepa B Saram. The minister praised Bahrain-Sri Lanka friendship ties, wishing the ambassador of Sri Lanka success in her diplomatic mission. Mr Humaidan briefed the ambassador about the Kingdom’s labor regulations compatible with international standards and the Kingdom’s continuous efforts to ensure the legal protection of all workers. He reaffirmed the ministry’s bolstering the social welfare and safe workplace ergonomics. The ambassador praised the bilateral relations, noting Bahrain’s development and growth in this prosperous era, citing the advanced labor regulations and the legal protection and social welfare of the workforce.

Support to authors stressed



Adviser to His Majesty the King for Media Affairs, Nabeel Al Hamer, yesterday received the CEO of Miracle Publishing, Khalid Juman. The adviser discussed with Khalid Juman new publications and encouraged him to continue his march in this field. He expressed his appreciation for the role played by Miracle Publishing, praising the efforts and contributions of the CEO in highlighting the distinctive character of Bahrain and its comprehensive renaissance at all levels. Mr Juman expressed his thanks to Al Hamer for his continuous support for authors and intellectuals, which constitutes an incentive for them to give more creativity.