

Don't Let a Swim Turn Tragic

Child drownings and recent incidents across pools, seas, and travel prompt renewed safety warnings

TDT | Manama
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With rising temperatures in Bahrain, beaches and swimming pools are becoming increasingly crowded, with many facilities fully booked. However, this growing demand has also led to rising safety concerns, as drowning incidents continue to occur among both children and adults.

As part of the Ministry of Interior's Al Aman Program, Colonel Dr. Osama Bahar stressed the importance of awareness and prevention, stating: "Swimming is a wonderful sport and a great way to relax, but it can also be very dangerous, even for experienced swimmers."

He explained that swimmers are generally divided into two categories: those who engage in swimming as a sport or training activity, and those who swim recreationally with family or friends. Addressing open-water swimmers, he advised: "Use a brightly colored swim buoy attached to your body so that boat and jet ski operators can easily see you. It can also help you rest if you become tired." He also recommended swimming parallel to the shoreline, avoiding deep water, and ensuring



These incidents show that drowning can affect all age groups and occur in both local and international settings, reinforcing the need for constant supervision, adherence to safety guidelines, and heightened public awareness.

someone is aware of their swimming location. Additionally, he warned: "Avoid boat routes, harbors, areas beneath bridges, and places where swimming is



Dr. Osama Bahar

prohibited." For families and recreational beachgoers, he emphasized constant supervision of children near water, stating: "Never

Drowning Incidents

- 2018 - Riffa**
 - A young man drowned in a reported water-related incident.
- December 2023 - Al Hidd Coast**
 - A 59-year-old Bahraini man died after drowning near the shoreline.
- August 2024 - Swimming Pool Incident**
 - A Bahraini child tragically drowned in a private/public pool.
- June 2025 - Mahooz**
 - A Bahraini man in his twenties died after drowning in a swimming pool.
- September 2025 - Thailand Trip**
 - A Bahraini man drowned during a tourist trip abroad.

lose sight of a child and never let go of their hand near the water." He highlighted that drowning can occur quickly and silently, even in shallow water, particularly when attention is briefly lost. He further added: "Your role is to protect your loved ones, help them enjoy their time safely, and make every beach outing a happy and safe experience."

LMRA Cuts Domestic Worker Permit Fix to One Day

TDT | Manama
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The Labour Market Regulatory Authority has cut the wait to correct the work permit status of a domestic worker whose employer has died from 10 working days to one.

The upgraded online service lets the worker's status be changed in one of two ways: by issuing a work permit under another employer, or by cancelling the existing permit so the worker can leave Bahrain.

The LMRA said the change also halves the paperwork needed for the service and cuts the number of approvals by 25 pc. Details of the service have also been made the same across all public channels.

Under the revised process, the system sends an electronic notice, after which the new employer applies for a domestic worker permit through the authority's portal. The LMRA then checks the death of the former employer, cancels the existing permit and goes on with the new work permit

steps. Ahmed Al Arabi, the LMRA's deputy chief executive for services and business, said the move was part of the authority's shift towards online tools that make services faster and easier for users.

He said the upgraded service would save time and effort for those dealing with the authority and improve the way its work system runs.



The change is part of wider state work to review public services and rebuild them around user needs.

More than 1,300 government services have been documented, translated and published, while 800 services across state bodies have been reviewed and reworked.

The changes were drawn from comments and complaints sent through the national Tawassul system, feedback from investors and mystery shopper reports on public services. User guides and service pledges have also been issued to make steps clearer and improve service standards.

Appeal Court Upholds Prison Sentences in Newborn Death and Illegal Burial Case

All three defendants face deportation after serving their sentences

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The First High Criminal Court of Appeal has upheld prison sentences against an Asian couple convicted of gross negligence leading to the death of their newborn child, as well as failing to report the infant's birth and death.

The court confirmed a three-year prison term for the 35-year-old mother and the 26-year-old father. It also upheld a one-year prison sentence for the mother's friend, who was found guilty of assisting in the unlawful burial of the infant without informing the relevant authorities.

All three defendants were additionally sentenced to one month in prison for residing illegally in Bahrain and will be deported after completing their prison terms.

According to court records, the mother arrived in Bahrain in January 2024 for work. She had met

the father through social media in 2022, and the pair later entered into a relationship before moving in together in October 2024.

In March 2025, the woman discovered she was pregnant but did not seek medical care after her residency permit had expired. Investigators said she informed the father of the pregnancy and the couple agreed to continue with it despite not obtaining medical supervision.

On August 23, 2025, the woman went into labour at their apartment. After the father and the third defendant briefly visited, they left the residence. The woman later delivered the baby at home without medical assistance and cut the umbilical cord using non-medical means.

Investigations found that the infant was born alive but required urgent specialised medical care due to being premature. No medical assistance was sought, and

the child's condition deteriorated, ultimately resulting in death.

Following the infant's death, the third defendant returned to the apartment, and the three agreed not to notify authorities. The baby's body was wrapped in cloth and transported to the A'ali area, where it was buried near a mosque without following legal procedures.

Prosecutors said the defendants failed to report both the birth and death within the legally required period. The third defendant participated in the burial, while the father assisted in coordinating the burial arrangements and transportation.

The Public Prosecution charged the parents with negligently failing to provide necessary medical care, leading to the infant's death, as well as failing to report the birth and death. Additional charges included unlawful burial without notifying authorities and violations related to expired residency permits.



Southern Governorate Moves to Tackle Visual Clutter from Shop Signs

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Hasan Barakat

Concerns over unregulated shop signage and oversized advertisements have prompted calls for stricter municipal controls in Bahrain's Southern Governorate, aimed at improving the urban landscape and ensuring fairness among businesses.

Southern Municipal Council member Mohammed Hussain Darraj raised the issue during the council's final session of its fourth term under "any other business," urging the introduc-



"The use of non-official flags and symbols on commercial signage must be addressed through stricter inspection and enforcement to ensure compliance with regulations,"

COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED HUSSAIN DARRAJ

tion of unified standards for commercial signage sizes.

Darraj warned that the absence of clear regulations allows some businesses to dominate visual space while disadvantaging others, in addition to contributing to visual clutter and encroachment on public

areas. He also called for clearer rules on the use of languages on shopfronts, stressing the importance of maintaining Arabic alongside English, and cautioned against excessive multilingual displays that he said could dilute national identity.

GCC Ministers Push Forward Regional Railway Integration Plans

Bahrain stresses the economic and strategic value of a unified railway network

The GCC Railway Project was a key focus of discussions as the Kingdom of Bahrain chaired the 29th extraordinary meeting of the GCC Ministerial Council for Transport, underscoring continued efforts to advance regional connectivity and logistics integration.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, as part of Bahrain's presidency of the 46th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The session was held virtually with the participation of transport,

ports, and logistics ministers and senior officials from GCC member states.

Discussions centred on the latest developments in the implementation of the GCC Railway Project, alongside broader regional logistics integration initiatives. Ministers also reviewed mechanisms to enhance coordination among member states to ensure the effective achievement of the project's strategic objectives.

In his remarks, Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa

said the extraordinary meeting was held in line with directives and resolutions of the GCC Supreme Council issued during the Manama and Jeddah summits, which emphasised the GCC railway project as a cornerstone of deeper Gulf integration.

