



Man jailed for fatal road accident in Seef District

● **Basic safety breach**

TDI | Manama

A Gulf man was sentenced to two years in prison and will be deported after serving his term, following a fatal road accident in Seef District.

According to the First High Criminal Court, the man was driving under the influence of alcohol when his car lost control.

The crash left his wife dead from severe head injuries, while he sustained a serious fracture to his left arm.

The incident also caused damage to public property, including a road sign, a decorative tree, and a metal barrier.

Precautions

Investigations confirmed that the driver failed to observe basic safety precautions.

The court ruled that his reckless driving directly resulted in his wife's death and held him accountable for the consequences.

Price pressure

MP warns of shipping strain and building material shortages in Kingdom

● **Regional tensions affect industry**

Mohammed Darwish
TDI | Manama

Firms in Bahrain are facing steep extra shipping costs while the building trade is running into shortages of some materials, MP Hassan Ebrahim told Parliament, warning that the strain could feed through to prices in the local market.

Speaking during debate on a proposal calling for media plans for major accidents, disasters and emergencies, Ebrahim said regional tensions had led some global shipping lines to halt or reroute vessels heading to Gulf states.

As a result, he said, some cargoes were now being offloaded at other ports such as Khor Fakkan and Jebel Ali, leaving traders in Bahrain to bear war-risk fees, diversion charges and the cost of getting goods on to the Kingdom.

He said moving one container from Khor Fakkan to Bahrain

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— MP HASSAN EBRAHIM



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could cost about \$5,000, while the same journey from Jebel Ali could range from \$1,000 to \$3,000, with port delay fees on top.

“These challenges may place heavy pressure on commercial companies,” he said, adding that this could also push up the price of goods on sale in Bahrain.

Ebrahim said the building trade was also under strain because some materials had be-

come hard to source.

The lawmaker said the sector was too important to be left exposed and called for steps to keep supplies flowing so building work and development did not slow.

He said any serious talk about disasters and emergencies had to cover supply lines as well, along with the part played by the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry in backing

trade during such periods.

Ebrahim called for a close look at what the government was doing to help traders and keep goods moving.

The legislator also pressed for stronger public messaging in times of crisis.

He said Bahrain needed clear, well-drawn media plans to get information to citizens and residents quickly, raise public awareness and lift the country's state of readiness.

“The economic wheel must keep turning even in times of challenge,” he said.

This period, he added, should not be treated as a pause or a holiday, but as one calling for harder work and a shared sense of duty.

He also spoke of cases in which citizens had tried to reach ministries by phone or email and got no reply.

That, he said, needed fixing to make sure public services kept running without harm to people's interests.

In some cases, he said, ministers were contacted directly, and he praised their response and follow-up.

Call for wider public-private partnerships

Mohammed Darwish
TDI | Manama

Bahrain's economy has held its footing through regional strain, Khalid Al Maskati said, as he made the case for stronger backing for small firms and a bigger part for private business in the country's development work.

Speaking to Bahrain TV, the head of the Financial and Economic Affairs Committee at the Shura Council said the economy had shown a clear ability to adjust to fast-moving events around the region.

He said that staying power should now be matched by work to back small and medium-sized enterprises, keep goods flowing and draw the private sector further into state-led projects.

“The Bahraini economy has proven its ability to adapt quickly and positively to different variables and emerging circumstances,” he said.

Al Maskati said small and medium-sized firms were a key part of job creation, output and supply chains, which is why the government had placed weight on helping them cope with economic strain.



Our warmest Greetings and Congratulations to

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
The Crown Prince & Prime Minister

the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain
on the occasion of Eid Al Fitr

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