

# It's too hot to handle

## Meat sellers complain broken ACs ruin their businesses

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

These men are already tackling multiple crises in their daily lives.

On top of that is the predicament of working without air conditioning amid the intense summer heat, complains meat sellers at the Manama Central Market.

"Those AC units stopped working days ago," said traders pointing fingers at the silent boxes sitting high on the walls.

"The worst part, however, is that the heat is now hurting our businesses too as customers are finding it too hot and are walking away soon after arriving," sellers there said as they struggled to wipe away the sweat dribbling down their faces under the unusually high temperatures inside the market.

"Customers are moving out quickly, without making purchases, opting for other nearby places where they could stay cool," traders said without masking their disappointment.

"This is giving us a real nightmare," they said, adding if this continues, it could potentially lead to a huge disaster in our sales.



”

For the past six months, the air-conditioning system has been defunct. A technician sent by the maintenance company says that six compressors are not working and require a serious repair

A MUTTON MERCHANT

”

Most of us rush to the toilet facilities at the nearby mosque to attend to nature's call. But they are only open during prayer times

A MERCHANT

### 3 toilets for 500!

He said there are only three toilet facilities for over 500 workers at the meat market. "Most of us rush to the toilet facilities at the nearby mosque to attend to nature's call. But they are only open during prayer times."

The mutton merchant said a group of workers earlier raised this issue before the authorities when they inspected the market.

"However, no steps were taken in this regard. We are requesting the authorities to provide ten more facilities."

*"We are in the peak of summer and how could these officials refrain from giving a directive to repair this defunct air-conditioning system?"*

"The meat we sell needs a moderate temperature to keep it suitable for consumption and preserve it from spoilage and rotting. "If this continues, we will

have to take huge losses," the traders said, calling on authorities to act quickly to solve the issue.

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune*, a mutton merchant, who doesn't want to be identified, said municipality officials have always been unsympathetic to the sufferings. "For the past six months, the air-conditioning system has remained defunct. A technician sent by the maintenance compa-

ny says that six compressors are not working and require serious repairs.

"When contacted, the maintenance company officials say that they haven't received any directive from the municipality officials to perform the repair. We are in the peak of summer and how could these officials refrain from giving a directive to repair this defunct air-conditioning system?"



There are only three toilet facilities for over 500 workers at the meat market.

## Short-circuit in AC sparks off blaze, crisis averted

TDT | Manama

A large fire broke out early morning yesterday at a religious gathering house in Manama, which initial investigation said was triggered by an electric short circuit in an air-conditioner.

While the incident caused no casualties, the raging fire inflicted severe damage to the building's interior.

Onlookers said it was a "major tragedy" averted as firefighters prevented the fire from spreading to nearby buildings.

Civil Defence officers said they rushed to the spot with firefighting vehicles, responding to a call.

Soon after reaching the spot, officers cordoned off the area and put their skills to full use, as the fire got under control quickly. The fire brigade also continued with the cooling operation to prevent the fire from spreading.

Initial investigation suspects a short circuit from one of the air conditioners for the fire.



In pictures, Jaffari Endowments officials visiting the fire-hit building

Experts say the sparks due to an erratic power supply from the AC might have fallen on other things in the room, triggering a fire and thick smoke.

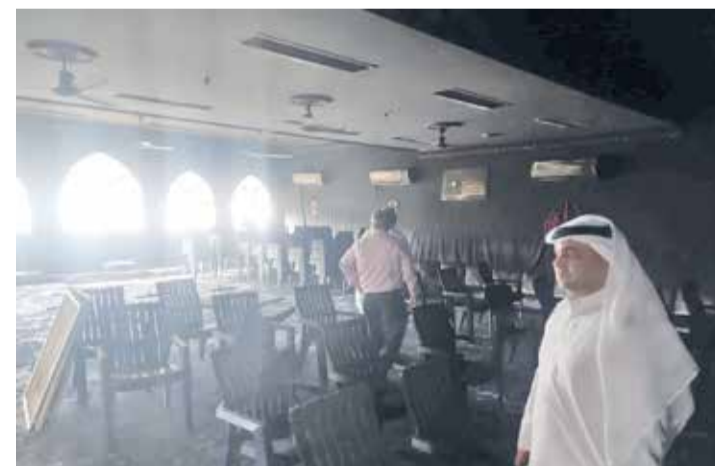
The extent of damages caused is not yet determined. An investigation is ongoing.

Witnesses told *The Daily Tribune* they saw huge plumes of black smoke rising from the building from a distance and

quickly alerted all others.

"Luckily, no one got injured as the Civil Defence officers brought the fire swiftly under control."

Images from the scene showed extensive fire damage, with the interior of the building completely burned down, with debris seen scattered across the floors and walls covered with thick soot.



Later in the day, the Director of the Jaffari Endowments Department, Muhammad Jaafar Al-Husseini and Head of the Jaafari Endowments, Yousef bin Saleh Al-Saleh, visited the fire-hit funeral of Al Bidaa in Manama.

Muhammad Jaafar Al-Husseini said the directorate offers full support for its reconstruction. Evaluating the damages, Al

he said.

Al-Husseini said the authority had allocated some urgent funds to start the rehabilitation works.

"Renovations works will begin immediately and will be completed as soon as possible in coordination with relevant authorities," Al Husseini assured.

He also appreciated the Civil Defence Forces for their rapid response.

"Firefighters were quick to bring the fire under control, thereby preventing it from spreading to buildings adjacent to the funeral." The Al-Bidaa funeral administration appreciated the speedy communication of the Jaffari Endowments Department.

Husseini said the fire damage is limited to material losses.

"Thankfully, no lives are lost,"



Experts say proper unit maintenance is the key to preventing fires. They say summer heat can put a strain on air conditioners, which can become fire hazards if they are not well-maintained. so, avoid overuse. Running your unit constantly can lead to mechanical failures and fires.