

Scrapyards “breeding grounds” for antisocial elements

Top municipal officials call for laws regulating scrapyards in the Kingdom

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The call to regulate scrapyards in the Kingdom is gaining strength, with lawmakers terming them as “haven” and “breeding ground” for criminal activities.

Thousands of dinars worth of metals and other objects make their way through scrapyards in the Kingdom each year, where criminals are also allegedly using them for a few-questions-asked source for fast cash.

Scrapyards allegedly also help spawn an endless cycle of theft, which law enforcement cannot keep pace with.

Municipalities also accuse the scrapyards of failing to maintain security and safety measures, despite falling under the aegis of the commercial registry.

“Their irresponsible acts also expose nearby localities to grave dangers, including fire.”

Municipal officials state that such places have become a haven

for irregular workers and criminal elements to sell off stolen goods.

“Only way out is ensuring accountability and monitoring.”

According to the Chairman of the Southern Municipal Council, Bader Al Tamimi, “It’s high time we intervene and fashion them into markets that would serve the economy.”

Several proposals in these regards went into the abyss, he said, adding each of the queries is sent back with the answer we are “studying” them.

“Delaying actions are also tantamount to denying an opportunity to develop these places and create job opportunities.”

Chairman of Muharraq Municipal Council Ghazi Al-Morbati highlighted the need for regulations to organise the sector to create more jobs. “This would generate substantial

income for Bahraini families in the sector,” he said.

“Scrapyard, he wondered, existed in the Kingdom for several years, but it is not yet clear who is responsible for them.”

He also suggested developing a unified space for collecting scraps to ensure accountability.

Muhammad Saad Al Dosari, a member of the Northern Municipal Council, stressed the need for bringing scrapyards in the Kingdom under a specific authority to ensure accountability for everything that goes in and out of such yards.

“This would help preserve the environment and safety of the areas that employ several expatriate workers.”

“The presence of proper laws will also ensure regular employment and eliminate commercial fraud.”

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Playground for mafias

Since 2016, there were frequent reports of scrapyards being used by “mafias” as cover to deal in illegal weapons, drugs, stolen cars and hazardous chemicals with the place seeing major fires that sometimes took up to a day to extinguish.

There

were also reports that the quarry area, located near to the scrapyard in Askar, had been repeatedly targeted in a spate of overnight raids by thieves who hauled away stone by truckloads – the quarry resumed operations in 2015 after being shut down for eight years.

Urbaser Bahrain, which carries out waste management operations in the Northern and Southern governorates, has been awarded a contract to run the landfill site and set up sorting and recycling facilities as part of a plan to extend

the site’s lifespan until 2025.

Two years ago, an inferno ripped through a scrapyard in Askar with flames engulfing scrap vehicles and plastic waste as well as spreading across wooden cabins and other debris.

The blaze was so intense that black trails of smoke continued to billow into the sky for more than six hours and the thick plumes could be seen from as far away as Sitra, 23km in the distance.



Representative picture

“Little Scholars Nursery” gets ministry’s approval

● For children below four years of age

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“Little Scholars Nursery” has received Education Ministry’s approval to open doors in the Kingdom.

Education Minister, Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi, announced the approval in an Edict yesterday.

The establishment, the Edict said, is a “foreign nursery” for children below four years of age.

The new nursery will adhere to the Decree-Law (25) of 1998 regarding Private Educational and Training Institutions and the regulations in force in the Kingdom.

The Edict stipulates commitment to the number of children authorised, collecting fees and not raising them or adding any other fees without obtaining written approval.

Edict says the school should follow an educational pro-



Education Minister, Dr Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi

gramme consistent with the characteristics of the children of the nursery, modern requirements, and precautions measures.

Reportedly, there are over 90 nurseries in the Kingdom.

According to data released by the Ministry of Education, during the 2018-2019 period, nurseries in the Kingdom had over 4,500 students, while there were over 34,000 students in Kindergarten.



The inaugural meeting of the National Committee on the Prohibition of Weapons of Mass Destruction was held yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, and attended by committee members representing the relevant ministries and government agencies. The Minister stressed that the development of the weapons of mass destruction file is evidence of Bahrain’s commitment to security and peace and policies to prevent the dangers of arms proliferation



The United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain Steven C. Bondy paid a visit to the American Mission Hospital. He was updated on the developments of the hospital and given a tour of the facility by Corporate CEO Dr George Cheriyan and Group CEO Julia Tovey.

Bahrain celebrates World Humanitarian Day

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Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, yesterday praised the leading role of Bahrain in humanitarian work on the occasion of World Humanitarian Day observed on the 19th of August. The Foreign Minister extended his gratitude to His Majesty the King, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

He commended Bahrain’s humanitarian initiatives and charitable and development projects implemented by ministries and government agencies in partnership with the civil society inside and outside the Kingdom, including presenting international awards to support women, youth, education, sustainable development, and service to humanity.

Dr Al-Zayani lauded the efforts of the Royal Humanitarian Foundation and its pioneering contributions in caring for orphans, widows, the elderly and people with special needs, as well as providing social, health and educational assistance.