

Child recovers after swallowing Bahrain-emblem brooch

Authorities urge parental supervision to prevent similar incidents

TDT | Manama
Ghadeer Alkumaish

A child in Bahrain was successfully treated after swallowing a brooch bearing the emblem of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The incident quickly escalated into a medical emergency after the object became lodged in the esophagus.

The child was taken to the hospital, where medical assessments confirmed an object was stuck in the esophagus, requiring urgent intervention.

Doctors proceeded with immediate endoscopic treatment to safely remove the object and prevent potential complications. The procedure was carried out successfully, with no reported complications.

Dr. Abdulrahman Al Shafei, Consultant in Pediatric and Neonatal Surgery at the Royal Medical Services (RMS), performed the operation and led the precise extraction of the object.

Following the procedure, the child's condition stabilized. The child safely passed the



X-ray shows the brooch lodged in the child's esophagus.

critical stage, and a full recovery is expected.

The incident drew attention on social media, where users expressed widespread relief and sent messages of support, prayers, and well-wishes for the child's speedy recovery.

Medical professionals, however, stressed that even small or symbolic items can pose se-

rious health risks if swallowed, particularly for children, and may rapidly develop into life-threatening emergencies.

Authorities urged parents and caregivers to closely supervise children, keep small objects out of reach, and seek immediate medical attention if foreign body ingestion is suspected.



Dr. Abdulrahman Al Shafei



The brooch retrieved after being safely removed from the child's esophagus.

No Peace at Home

Southern residents demand action as noise, traffic and pollution grow



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Workshops and garages operating illegally in residential neighbourhoods across Bahrain's Southern Governorate have triggered mounting complaints from residents, forcing the issue onto the agenda of the southern municipal council.

Council members called for firm enforcement against violating businesses, warning that the unchecked spread of commercial operations among homes erodes neighbourhood life. They pushed for clear reg-

ulations compelling such businesses to relocate to designated industrial zones.

A shortage of municipal inspectors compounds the problem, leaving violations largely unmonitored. Members stressed the urgent need for stronger coordination between relevant government bodies.

Under current rules, businesses must secure approvals from multiple authorities. Non-compliant premises face closure or a grace period to rectify breaches. The matter has been referred to a specialist committee for further review.

Fatal Road Collision



A 54-year-old citizen died following a traffic accident on Ria Street near the Qalali area, authorities said on Wednesday.

Image of the incident published on Al Ayam's social media platforms.

Call for urgent action over stray dog surge

Questions raised over the timing of the new stray dog management contract

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Ghadeer Alkumaish

The Municipal Council member Abdullah Al Qubaisi has called for urgent action by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture to address the growing and concerning spread of stray dogs in the cemetery area of Hamad City. He stressed the need for immediate intervention in response to repeated complaints from residents and to ensure the safety of both residents and visitors in the area.

Al Qubaisi explained that these concerns are driven by serious reasons that place the situation at the forefront of urgent priorities. He noted that the archaeological cemetery area in Hamad Town, extending between several roundabouts, is witnessing a noticeable increase in stray dogs, especially since the site is located within a densely populated residential zone, which significantly increases daily risks.

He added that complaints from residents have escalated due to the dogs frightening children and causing continuous disturbance, posing a direct threat to public safety and security, particularly during evening and nighttime hours when the dogs are more active.

He also pointed out that this request comes at a time when the ministry has announced a new tender for organizing and managing stray dog populations, following the end of the previous contract and the delay in finaliz-



Al Qubaisi

ing the new one. He questioned when the new contract would actually be activated and implemented.

Al Qubaisi further revealed that the hotline designated for reporting stray dogs is currently out of service due to the expiration of the previous contract, leaving residents without an effective channel to report urgent cases.

He stated that the number of stray dogs in the area is continuously increasing, emphasizing that current spaying and neutering efforts have not effectively controlled the rapid population growth. He called for alternative, more innovative, and decisive solutions to end the ongoing issue that continues to disturb residents.



Stray Dog Control Measures

- **CNR programme:** Stray dogs are caught, neutered, tagged and released in controlled areas to prevent breeding.
- **Breeding controls:** Restrictions on backyard breeding and puppy imports to reduce abandonment.
- **Shelters & welfare:** Cooperation with BSP-CA and plans for new shelters to house and treat strays.

Roblox Ban Urged Despite Chat Block

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Mohammed Darwish

A proposal to ban 'Roblox' in Bahrain has been approved by Parliament's Services Committee, despite regulators saying chat had already been disabled in the kingdom and warning that a full block could push children towards VPNs and riskier websites.

The proposal, submitted by MP Dr Maryam Al Dhaen, asks the government to take legal and technical steps to ban the game, stop it being offered through official app stores, and bar downloads in Bahrain.

Dr Maryam said the aim was 'to protect children and young people from the psychological, behavioural and security risks' linked to the game.

She said: 'The game contains virtual spaces and open chats that may allow unsuitable material to be exchanged among children.'

The services committee report ties the call to Article 5 of the Constitution, which says the family is the basis of society and that the state must protect motherhood, childhood and young people from exploitation and moral, physical and spiritual neglect.

Dr Maryam argued that the game carries three main risks: unsuitable content, contact between minors and strangers, and possible harm to children's behaviour and mental wellbeing.

She said: 'There are security risks, including the chance that the game is used for contact between minors and strangers, opening the door to cybercrime and exploitation.'

She also cited addiction, social withdrawal and behavioural disorders said to have been seen



DR MARYAM AL DHAEN, MP

among some children using the game, adding that the proposal was in keeping with Bahrain's policy of protecting children from harmful online material.

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority told the committee it shared MPs' concern over children being exposed to age-inappropriate content, but said it had already opened direct channels with Roblox and joined Gulf-level talks to strengthen the region's hand with the company.

The authority said those talks led to facial age verification, meant to stop children from creating adult accounts and to keep content within age bands. It said Roblox had also answered meeting requests, sent representatives to Bahrain when needed, and removed a flaw spotted by the authority linked to locating users through IP addresses.

On contact with strangers, the authority said all direct communication tools inside the Gulf

region had been removed, including text and voice chat, to protect children from unwanted contact. It added that Roblox had agreed to close or alter any feature that allowed direct contact outside age rules or carried possible risk.

The authority said the risk of online exploitation had fallen as a result.



- Bahrain is reviewing Roblox safety tools linked to addictive behaviour.
- Officials say full bans have been bypassed in other countries via VPNs.
- Roblox chat features have already been disabled in Bahrain as a precaution.
- A joint government review is underway before a parliamentary recommendation.