

Pedestrian killed in road accident



Representative picture

● **Deceased identified as 39-year-old Indian national Kalaiselvan Daknamoorthy**

Staff Reporter
TDT | Manama

A pedestrian was killed after being hit by a vehicle yesterday on Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Street near East Riffa.

The deceased was identified as 39-year-old Indian national Kalaiselvan Daknamoorthy.

The Interior Ministry confirmed the accident in a tweet on Friday night.

The *Daily Tribune* earlier reported that pedestrians are the most vulnerable when it comes to road accidents in the Kingdom. A report published by a division within the Ministry of Works has revealed that the maximum victims of road accidents in the past three years were pedestrians.

According to the Road Safety Audit published by the Traffic Safety Group, 48 pedestrians were either injured or killed in accidents followed by drivers (38), passengers (29), motorcyclists (20) and cyclists (13).

Forty-seven fatal accidents occurred in the year 2020. There were 48 fatal accidents in the year 2019 and 41 in 2018 respectively. According to the General Directorate of Traf-

fic, by implementing adequate measures the Kingdom has been able to reduce the number of fatal accidents by 50 per cent.

“The accident rate is the lowest in the Gulf region and the Middle East. This is because of the increasing steps to monitor wrong traffic practices apart from boosting awareness activities.”

A study conducted two years ago revealed that despite the increase in the number of vehicles by 36 per cent in the last five years, the accidents in general reduced by 21.55pc and the fatal accidents by 30pc, while the fatalities dropped by 38pc and injuries-related accidents among drivers by 41pc and passengers by 52pc.

The General Directorate has always been highlighting the important role of the community in reducing traffic accidents by their traffic awareness and culture. He said that the department works within three main points; enhancing traffic safety through studies and reports, regulation of traffic on the roads and the enhancement of traffic services through e-facilities.

The Director-General of Traffic, Brigadier Shaikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulwahab Al Khalifa, earlier revealed that traffic injuries and fatalities were reduced by 60pc after the implementation of a comprehensive traffic strategy.

Ties with Bahrain, closest and oldest, says US envoy

● **US will continue as closest partner for advanced defence systems**

● **Bahrain as one of the “most open economies in MENA**

● **Bahrain to get next generation of the F-16 aircrafts**

● **Looks forward to initiating direct flight with Bahrain**

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The US Ambassador to Bahrain, Steven Bondy, stressed yesterday the close relations between the two countries as amongst the “oldest and closest” in the region.

In an interview published by Bahrain News Agency, Bondy said that the two countries are endeavouring to expand their partnership across all areas. “We maintain close partnerships with the government of Bahrain on the full range of bilateral issues, from education and the arts to trade, investment, and security, with an emphasis on strengthening people-to-people ties,” he said.

The ambassador stressed the significance of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) – one of only two in the Gulf

region – in strengthening the bilateral trade and investment relationship.

“Since coming into force in 2006, two-way trade in merchandise and services has more than tripled, from \$782 million in 2005 to nearly \$3 billion in 2018. Even during the disruption of the pandemic-induced economic downturn, trade exceeded \$2 bn in 2021, up from \$1.5 bn in 2020,” he said.

“We believe in expanding commercial relations with Bahrain as a US government priority, and we are here to support businesses in doing that.”

The ambassador also emphasized that “the US is and

will continue to be Bahrain’s closest partner for advanced defence systems and equipment.”

“Such systems greatly improve and enhance regional security, as do the high pace of bilateral and multilateral military exercises and training events. The United States and Bahrain both benefit from closer operational coordination.”

“The United States looks forward to initiating direct flights connecting the two countries,” he said, adding that “together with the new 10-year multiple-entry visa for Bahraini citizens, we expect to turbo-charge business and tourism travel.”

On the Bahrain-US relationship, he said Bahrain plays a ‘key role’ in the regional security architecture and is a vital ally in defence initiatives.

“We salute His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa’s bold decision to have relations with Israel via the Abraham Accords, which we believe represents a fundamental change of strategic orientation in the region,” he said.

The US embassy is working hand in hand with the Bahraini government “to ensure the people of Bahrain benefit from their relationship with Israel.”

On the Bahrain-US Free Trade Agreement, he said FTA significantly strengthened the bilateral trade and investment relationship. “We believe in expanding commercial relations with Bahrain as a US government priority, and we are here to support busi-

nesses interested in doing that.” Bahraini firms have been invited to the SelectUSA Investment Summit to be held in-person in Washington, DC, on June 26-29.

He also pointed out that despite the disruption to trade growth caused by the pandemic-induced economic downturn, bilateral trade exceeded \$2 billion in 2021, up from \$1.5 bn in 2020. The ambassador also highlighted Bahrain as one of the “most open economies in the Middle East and North Africa region, with strong trade relations within the GCC and beyond, excellent infrastructure and strong financial institutions.”

Bahrain, he said, is well-positioned to host investors seeking access to local, regional, and international markets.

The ambassador also congratulated Bahrain for being its first partner to operate the AH-1Z attack helicopters and “will be the first country to fly the next generation of the F-16 aircraft.”

Bahrain, he stressed, is a Major Security Partner and Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States.

Cyber-security and cyber-defence

“In going forward, Bahrain and the US are consistently increasing our interoperability and streamlining communication and threat-sharing processes to deter and defend the unmanned systems and missiles. Additionally, we are breaking new ground in other realms, such as cyber-security and cyber-defence.”



LMRA inspection campaign: several arrested

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Joint inspection campaigns with the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs of the Ministry of Interior resulted in several arrests last week, said the Labour Market Regulatory Authority.

The campaigns were at work-sites in all governorates of the Kingdom.

Officials said they detected vi-




violations of laws related to LMRA and residence and took legal

actions. The authority stressed the importance of the community’s role in supporting the efforts of government agencies and called on the public to report labour market violations and irregular employment.


The campaigns reflect the ongoing efforts exerted by LMRA, MoI and other government bodies to improve the work environment.




The Malayali Association of Manama Central Market honoured 13 expatriate social workers of the Kingdom at an event held at Manama KMCC Hall. The social workers honoured at the event are Dr Babu Ramchandran, Habeeb Rahman, Subair Kannur, Basheer Ambalayai, Assainar Kalathinkal, Chemban Jalal, K R Nair, Sudheer Thirunilath, K T Saleem, Nissar Kollam, Rasheed Mahi, Najeeb Kadalayi and Jawad Pasha. All 73 members of the association were also honoured at the event. Association General Secretary Ashkar Poozhithala spoke on the occasion.



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