



# No end to traffic chaos

## Traffic worries 'still persist' despite school time change

Staff Reporter  
TDT | Manama

Despite best efforts to address the traffic woes that erupted following the reopening of schools in the Kingdom, tailbacks are a common scene and commuters are reportedly having difficulties in moving from one point to the other across the nation.

School day timings and bus departures were rescheduled last week by the authorities as part of easing the traffic jams, which had become notorious.

The move aimed at ensuring the interests of students, parents and commuters by implementing mechanisms to facilitate an easy flow of traffic across the Kingdom's road networks.

As per the Education Ministry's decision, the school day now begins at 7:05 am at all public educational institutions and end at 12:35 pm at primary schools (including those of the Religious and Jaffari institutes), 1:30 pm at intermediate schools, 1:45 and 2:15 pm at secondary schools and the Religious and Jaffari institutes (for both the intermediate

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and secondary levels).

Regarding technical schools, the school day timings remain unchanged, from 7:05 am to 1:45 for morning period students, and from 2:00 pm to 7:30 pm for the evening period students.

Earlier, the Ministry of Interior confirmed that efforts are being intensified to ensure the smooth flow of traffic across the country.

The Community Service Police in all four governorates and the General Traffic Department have increased their presence in the vicinity of schools and kin-

dergartens to ensure safe passage for students and teachers.

Speaking to *The Daily Tribune*, commuters said they continue to have difficulty across the Kingdom due to heavy traffic near schools and highways.

"We acknowledge the efforts being taken by the government to ensure the smooth traffic flow. However, things don't seem to be working well. The traffic peaked during the mornings as drivers and parents rushed to drop children on the premises of schools," a Bahrain resident said.

"Traffic jams near schools

expand to highways and other road networks, leading to huge tailbacks that one can hardly imagine. Escaping traffic jams isn't an easy task," he added.

Traffic jams are mainly felt on Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Highway, Al Estiqlal Highway, Shaikh Salman Highway and Budaiya Highway, according to commuters.

Another Bahrain resident told *The Daily Tribune* that the traffic ordeal has worsened his life beyond words. "I live in Deraz and my office is in Riffa. Every day it takes me nearly 40 minutes to cross the Janabiya circle. Earlier, it was just a ten minutes drive.

"I know many who are planning to change their residences owing to this traffic chaos. But that is not an easy task. However, despite these difficulties, I am hopeful that the authorities will

be gradually able to solve the issue. We appreciate their efforts in this regard."

Previously, the Ministry of Education hosted a workshop to prepare for the start of the new school year and to provide information on various aspects of traffic regulations near schools.

"This course is part of our careful planning to ensure the safety of kids when they return to school. We were keen to acquaint the security guards with a variety of potential scenarios and how to handle them during the training in order to prepare them to act quickly when anything seemed out of the norm," Professor Muhammad Al Abasi, Head of the School Safety and Security Department at the Ministry of Education, had said.

The traffic chaos began after more than 147,000 students returned to 210 government schools following a long gap of almost three years.

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## Student proved guilty in false attack accusation levelled against school teacher in viral video uploaded by parent

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A teacher - accused falsely of attacking two students by a parent in a viral video - turned innocent in a Ministry of Education investigation, which also termed the student involved as the real culprit.

Following an investigation, the ministry turned the tables on the student and charged the student for offending, insulting and attempting to provoke the teacher.

The teacher now stands cleared of all charges levelled against him.

Based on the evidence, the ministry said it awarded the student ten-day isolation and educational and disciplinary tasks within the school.

The ministry also referred



Representative picture

the woman to the General Department for Combating Cyber Crime to take necessary legal actions for publishing false accusations against the teacher.

The ministry also called on the parents and social media users to exercise extreme caution while dealing with such incidents and report such incidents to the

school administration before surmising that something may be true.

The ministry also urged all to refrain from publishing and sharing videos related to the incident citing the irreversible harm it will cause to school employees who work with honesty and dedication to the educational process.

The news also evoked several responses, with some social media users asking the ministry to tighten control over private schools.

Another user, thanking the Ministry of Education for bringing out the truth, points out that several had falsely accused the teacher and sympathised with the video publishers without verifying its authenticity.

Education Ministry opened the investigation after a video published by a parent accusing a teacher of attacking her son and another student, who suffered bruises, went viral.

Pursuantly, the Ministry of Education, represented by the Operations Department of the third educational district, contacted the parent.

As per the Instagram account of the Education Ministry, the incident reportedly occurred at Isa Town Primary Preparatory School.

The ministry said it summoned the teacher and sent a team to the school to investigate the circumstances leading to the incident.

Investigators recorded the statements of the students in-

involved in the video and took testimonies from other students and teachers who knew about the incident.

Based on the evidence collected, the ministry confirmed it didn't find any evidence against the teacher for beating up the students.

The investigators, however, said that, on the contrary, it was the student who offended the teacher, insulted and tried to provoke him.

Investigators also accused the student of being a habitual offender, citing records of his hostile behaviour towards other students in the school.

The student, the ministry said, behaved rudely with administrative staff and was never on time for classes.

The student, the ministry said, also failed to attend distance learning classes in the last academic year and is currently repeating the school year.

The ministry also said that the investigation showed that the allegation raised by the second student in the video was also false.

The bruises on his body, shown in the video, the student confessed, were old and not caused by the claimed attack.

Ministry said the same was confirmed by the student's parent when approached by the ministry's investigators.

The parent, the ministry said, revealed that the photograph showing bruises was taken and posted online without their consent.