

CAPTAINS CORNER

Don't sleep while speeding



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

The news of a bus falling into the sea in Bahrain because of negligent driving and one person losing his life, is considered fairly unusual by readers in Bahrain. Yet, the key detail remains hidden in on small fact – the timing: the accident took place at dawn. Late night and dawn accidents are inevitably caused by the driver falling asleep at the wheel and this is even more common than drunk driving! Some studies show that 37 percent of drivers report having fallen asleep behind the wheel at some point in their lives. An estimated 21 percent of fatal crashes, 13 percent of crashes resulting in severe injury and 6 percent of all crashes, involve a drowsy driver.

In Bahrain such a problem is usually not common simply because we generally travel short distances compared to large countries – even cross border travel to neighbouring countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait takes less time than interstate travel in Europe or the USA. However, we need to factor in other changes – cars today are faster and many more of them are on our roads, making even the slightest mistake a risk. Drivers need to stay more alert than even just ten years ago. Meanwhile, although drinking after consumption of alcohol is not such a big problem in this part of the world, a lifestyle change means that many people – especially youngsters – work or party into the wee hours of the night and sleep deprivation behind the wheel is as much a threat on the road as drunk driving.

The Traffic department must make people aware of this risk and ensure that drivers are well-rested especially during the “danger hours” of late night and early morning. The Bahrain roads are well laid-out and most busy roads have carefully-planned hard shoulders where drivers can pull over and either rest or call a friend for help if they feel they are losing concentration due to sleepiness. It will save their lives as well as the lives of many fellow-road users.

The Bahrain roads are well laid-out and most busy roads have carefully-planned hard shoulders where drivers can pull over and either rest or call a friend for help if they feel they are losing concentration due to sleepiness. It will save their lives as well as the lives of many fellow-road users.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counterterrorism)

The Bahrain roads are well laid-out and most busy roads have carefully-planned hard shoulders where drivers can pull over and either rest or call a friend for help if they feel they are losing concentration due to sleepiness.



NICE to deliver secure, reliable and stable network, says BNET

BNET opens Network Intelligence Centre of Excellence

TDI | Manama

Bahrain's National Broadband Network (BNET) has opened a Network Intelligence Centre of Excellence (NICE) to deliver secure, reliable and stable network in the Kingdom.

Launched in October 2019, BNET is responsible for providing broadband network services across Bahrain.

BNET said NICE has been developed to provide 24/7 proactive monitoring and management of Bahrain's smart digital telecommunication infrastructure networks by addressing any issues in real-time.

Among the functions covered by NICE are 'Fault Management', to enable the timely resolution of network faults and interruptions, and 'Performance Management', to predict and prevent service interruptions through the proactive network monitoring which will ensure consistency in the performance level.

BNET CEO Mohamed Bubashait said, "We aim to ensure that Bahrain's Licensed Operators have access to seamless and efficient support for all their needs around



the clock so that they can deliver the best quality of services to benefit the end-users, Bahrain's consumer and business customers across the Kingdom. Furthermore, we are focusing on adopting modern, world-class solutions to meet international standards."

BNET Acting Chief Technical Officer Mohamed Alkaabi said the criticality of BNET's network services and operations requires a world-class network operation



monitoring centre, and the new NICE operation perfectly meets this requirement.

As part of Bahrain's fifth National Telecommunication Plan, BNET provides next-generation

wholesale fibre broadband connectivity to all licensed telecom operators in Bahrain. It also provides broadband services to large enterprise customers in the Kingdom.

Keep your fences neat and clean or...

Capital takes action against owners of dilapidated fences



A capital municipality official in action. Pictures courtesy of AlAyam

TDI | Manama

The Capital municipality has kick-started a campaign to identify properties with dilapidated fences - a violation by Bahraini law.

The Director-General of the Capital Municipality Al-Muhtadas Muhammad Saad Al-Sahli said the municipality had formed a team to identify all such violating properties in the capital.

The team has started notifying the owners of such properties in the capital to correct the viola-

tions.

The campaign, Al Sahli said, aims at preserving the general characteristics of the structures in the area.

He pointed out that the shabby state of the structures is mainly due to negligence. "It ruins the visual harmony and aesthetic appearance of the area."

"Such structures may also lead to catastrophic accidents endangering lives and property," he said.

Al Sahli made clear that if the owners fail to take up the work, the municipality will take over and charge the owners for the

expenses incurred. "For this, the municipality will file civil lawsuits."

The Director-General said that Article (14) of the Public Road Works Law promulgated by Decree-Law No. (2) of 1996 authorises the municipality to remove violations by administrative methods at the expense of the violators.

Al Sahli called on property owners to renovate structures on their properties, including fencing, befitting the general appearance of the capital, and ensuring the safety of passers-by and visitors.

COVID-19 violations: Five outlets, managers get BD 15,000 fine

TDI | Manama

A Bahraini court slapped five outlets and their managers yesterday with fines ranging from BD 1,000 to 2,000, or a total of BD 15,000, for failing to adhere to the mandatory precautionary measures.

The Chief of the Ministries and Public Entities Prosecution revealed the actions.

The Public Health Directorate said it initiated legal actions against three restaurants, a cafe and a supermarket for violating the measures import to prevent the spread of the outbreak.

The establishments failed to follow social distancing, the two-metre distance between tables, and 50% capacity for each table. They also allowed entry to customers exceeded capacity and ignored temperature checks at the entrance.

The outlets are shut.