

# Family outing ends in tragedy as three die, including child, in **Sakhir crash**

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What began as a joyful family outing ended in unimaginable tragedy for Ahmed Ali Al-Shuwaikh, his wife, and their eight-year-old child.

Yesterday, a speeding vehicle tore through their plans, leaving the family dead and plunging their loved ones into grief. The family had been enjoying a recreational trip near the Tree of Life in Sakhir when the crash occurred.

The victims were identified by Al Ayam as Ahmed Ali Al-Shuwaikh, his wife Hawraa Makki, and their eight-year-old daughter Reem.

Eyewitnesses told Al Ayam that the accident occurred when a Land Cruiser, driven by two young men, attempted an overtaking manoeuvre. The vehicle collided head-on with the Mazda carrying the family. Passengers in the Land Cruiser sustained injuries, while the family in the Mazda suffered severe losses.

One of the vehicles overturned and came to rest on its roof off the roadside, while debris was scattered across the



The family had been enjoying a recreational trip in the Al-Qarah area when the crash occurred

site, underscoring the violent impact.

National Ambulance units and Civil Defence teams rushed to the scene, with firefighters and emergency personnel conducting rescue and extraction operations. The injured were transported to hospital.

The Ministry of Interior confirmed the incident on its official Twitter account, stating that two adults, aged 31 and 29, and a girl had died.

Authorities are continuing investigations and completing necessary procedures at the site. Social media users have called for stricter traffic enforcement and heightened caution in crowded camping areas, especially as Sakhir attracts families over the weekend. Similar incidents have occurred in the area before. On December 28, 2019, a Bahraini driver was injured after his vehicle overturned near the Tree of Life, highlighting ongoing road-safety concerns. Families visiting the site have been urged to remain vigilant, and authorities have reiterated the need for caution in areas popular for weekend outings.

## Overfishing threat prompts tighter fishing rules, council says

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The Supreme Council for Environment has defended Bahrain's new fishing regulations in a reply to Parliament, citing a UN Food and Agriculture Organization study that called for cutting fishing effort by about 45 per cent to restore sustainability.

Responding to a question from MP Mohammed Al Rifai, the council said environmental and technical indicators show a clear decline in fish stocks, which it linked to overfishing and the misuse of certain methods.

Data from the General Directorate of Marine Resources show 1,373 valid fishing licences, 604 licences for pearl fishing and extraction, 150 had-

ra trap licences and 744 issued under the 'Bahraini fisher' category, with about 520 Bahrainis actively practising fishing. The council said procedures to require a Bahraini captain on commercial vessels are still being finalised.

The council said recent controls are based on specialist studies, citing Decision No. 205 of 2018 banning bottom trawling nets and Decision No. 6 of 2025 regulating nets, gargoyle traps, hadra traps and fishing lines.

Catch data showed finfish landings fell from about 7.8 million kg in 2014 to 3.3 million kg in 2023, before recovering to around 4.7 million kg in 2025. The council said banning the 'karaf' trawling method raised fish and crustacean production by 16.9 per cent in 2019 and helped restore biodiversity and reduce bycatch.

It said temporary restrictions aim to rebuild stocks, protect nursery habitats and support food security. Central Market figures put total fish quantities at 8,315.8 tonnes in 2024 and 6,849.6 tonnes in 2025, with remaining demand met through regulated imports.



Mohammed Al Rifai, MP

## Mothers may be allowed to complete children's official paperwork amid court disputes

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Wives could be allowed to complete passport applications, birth registrations, residency paperwork and other government procedures for their minor children during court disputes under a proposal set to be debated in Parliament on Tuesday.

Submitted by MP Jalal Kadhem, the proposal would grant Bahraini and expatriate wives the authority to handle official transactions related to their minor children across government bodies



Jalal Kadhem, MP

without waiting for a court ruling. If both parents are unavailable, the right would transfer to the grandparents.

Kadhem said the aim is to ensure that essential procedures are not delayed or neglected during disputes, stressing that the measure is intended to protect the best interests of children.

The Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee has recommended approval of the proposal.

The Supreme Council for

Women said it was not constitutionally empowered to comment on such proposals, noting that the objective would require either legislative amendments or administrative action.

The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf said the proposal involves multiple government entities and touches on matters currently under judicial authority. It added that the government would study the proposal in full if Parliament approves and formally refers it for consideration.

## Jail, fines proposed for unlicensed nurseries

- The bill amends the Child Law of 2012 and defines two offences
- The Ministry of Education said the changes would strengthen oversight and improve childcare standards

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Unlicensed nurseries could face fines of 200 to 1,000 dinars and possible jail terms under a draft law set to be debated in Parliament on Tuesday.

The bill amends the Child Law of 2012 and defines two offences: establishing a nursery without a licence, and operating



Mamdouh Al Saleh, Chairman of Parliament's Services Committee

a nursery or altering its location or specifications without approval from the Ministry of Education. In both cases, courts could impose imprisonment, a fine, or both.

The amendment clarifies the legal distinction between licensing and prior approval. Establishing a nursery would require a licence, while operating one or making changes to its site or specifications would require ministerial consent.

The draft law also updates terminology by replacing outdated disability language with rights-based terms, using "per-

sons with disabilities" and "a person with a disability", in line with Bahrain's commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Services Committee has recommended approval in principle, while the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee said the bill raises no constitutional issues. The government has also endorsed the proposal.

The Ministry of Education said the changes would strengthen oversight and improve childcare standards, noting that 110 licensed nurseries fall under its supervision in the 2025-2026 academic year.

A transitional clause would give existing nurseries six months to regularise their status. If approved, the law would take effect after publication in the Official Gazette.