

Illegal parking near Red Bus stands 'leading to accidents'

Red Bus has approached the concerned ministries to find a solution and ensure the offenders are punished

Supriya Reginald
TDT | Manama

An average of one accident per week is caused due to illegal civilian parking at bus stops, according to the spokesperson of the Bahrain Public Transport Company.

Vehicles occupying stops designated for Red Buses, have forced drivers to halt the bus mid-road for boarding and de-boarding passengers.

In addition, this risks the safety of the commuters and often causes accidents and damages.

Speaking to Tribune, the spokesperson stated: "The incidents usually involve the bus brushing against the cars parked in the bus stop when trying to leave the road clear for traffic to pass. We have also some accidents, where car drivers crash into the rear side of the bus when it has to stop on the road."

Unauthorised civilian parking has been a lingering issue faced by the current as well as the previous public transport company in the Kingdom.

"This has been an issue since



Civilian vehicles occupying areas designated for Red Buses near the British Council in Salmaniya.

we started over four years ago, and I am sure it was a problem for the previous company as well," revealed the spokesperson.

Bus drivers have expressed concern with regard to safety of the passengers who are forced to manoeuvre through the hindrance to board and deboard.

"Drivers complain that cars parked at bus stops make it very difficult for them to pick up and drop off passengers safely, and they have to stop on the road, instead of designated areas. When this happens the vehicles behind them beep their horns, at times leading to verbal arguments with the bus driver.

"If the bus stop is partly blocked and the driver tries to get into the area that is available, chances of accidents are high," stated the spokesperson.

"It is a big problem for the elderly or disabled passengers or those with small children as they have to walk into the road and climb into the bus which can

be difficult or impossible if they are in a wheelchair," he added.

Red Bus has approached the concerned ministries to find a solution and ensure the offenders are caught and dealt with accordingly.

"We regularly report to the Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Interior (Traffic Police)

”
This has been an issue since we started over four years ago, and I am sure it was a problem for the previous company as well.

SPOKESPERSON

that we are facing this problem, and the specific areas where the problem is greatest," said the spokesperson.

"We are grateful for the support received already and understand that the traffic police only have limited resources. We have suggested to install ANPR CCTV cameras at the bus stops to automatically catch car drivers who park illegally. This would also generate revenue for the Government to reinvest in transport infrastructure," he added.

On a daily basis, Red Bus receives calls from commuters' eager to complain about the issue, it is learnt.

Government to rebuild gutted ma'atam

TDT | Manama

A ma'atam that was destroyed by a devastating fire in Al Daih village on Saturday, will be rebuilt under the supervision of the government, it has been announced.

Interior Ministry confirmed that no injuries were caused by the fire and that "Civil Defence prevented the flames from spreading to nearby areas using six vehicles and 20 personnel".

The ministry added that an investigation has been launched into the incident to determine the causes of the mishap.

A delegation from the Jaffaria Waqf Directorate (JWD) at the Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments Ministry visited the ma'atam on Saturday afternoon to assess the damages caused by the fire.

The JWD is the official body concerned about such centres in the Kingdom.

During the visit, JWD Chairman Shaikh Abdulmohsen Al



The delegation headed by Shaikh Al Asfoor assess the damages caused by the fire in Al Daih.

Asfoor announced that "the directorate will co-ordinate the demolition and rebuilding of the ma'atam with the related parties", adding that "the process will be financed by the construction budget allocated by the directorate's administration and donations for ma'atams".

Shaikh Al Asfoor also affirmed that the JWD will work

on "accelerating the issuance of construction permits, in co-ordination with the concerned authorities".

The Chairman reiterated the directorate's concern about the safety of mosques and ma'atams, reaffirming JWD's responsibility of sponsoring, supporting and developing these places.

He thanked the Civil Defence

Directorate in Interior Ministry for swiftly controlling the fire and preventing any casualties.

The delegation was accompanied by the area's parliamentary representative Mamdouh Al Saleh, who said the ma'atam is the oldest in the area and affirmed that it has a great value to the people of Al Daih and the neighbouring areas.

Expat, 25, dies a day before his betrothal

TDT | Manama
Mohammed Zafran

A 25 years old expatriate's life came to an abrupt end as he died in his sleep a day before his marriage fixing ceremony.

Nawaf Musawa went to sleep on Saturday night ready to fly to India the next day for his marriage fixing function, however, fate had something else in store.

A close relative of Nawaf told Tribune that he had been suffering from low blood sugar for quite a while. "All we know at the moment is that he died in his sleep. From what I know, he suffered a cardiac arrest following a complication caused by low blood sugar."

He added that the mortal remains will be sent to India. "The funeral will be held in India in the presence of his parents and the rest of family



The deceased Nawaf

members."

Nawaf hails from Mahe district in the Pondicherry state of India.

According to sources, a friend found Nawaf lifeless in the wee hours of yesterday.

"He was found motionless at 2:15 in the morning by his friend, who rushed him to the hospital," the source said.

Nawaf was an MBA graduate and his immediate survivors include father Faisal Musawa, mother Shahnaz and four siblings.

Nearly 80,000 families register for 'Select Family Physician' initiative

● The programme is currently accommodating nearly 700 registrations per day with less than two weeks left until it ceases.

TDT | Manama
Supriya Reginald

Nearly 80,000 families have registered for the "Select Family Physician" programme as of 24th March, Tribune has learnt.

One of the eight designated health centres, the National Bank of Bahrain Health Centre in Dair, acquired the highest percentage of total number of registrations with 62 per cent.

Commenced on 17th February, the six-week programme has made major strides in the health sector as 22,584 individuals selected their family physician in the first 24 hours of registration.

As part of the third phase of the National Health Plan (2016-2025), the purpose of the programme is to enable Bahraini and expatriate families to choose their desired physician.

The registration process can be carried out via the Ministry's website (www.moh.gov.bh) or by

Health Centre	Registered	% of total registered
NBB Dair	9,522	62pc
Jidhafs	15,157	54pc
Budaiya	12,167	43pc
BBK Hidd	10,540	33pc
Sh Jaber	12,769	41pc
Hamad Town	11,209	40pc
Sh Sabah	4,634	31pc
Halat Bu Maher	3,322	24pc
Total	79,320	

The registration statistics of the designated health centres.

visiting one of the eight designated health centres.

The eight health centres include Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait Health Centre in Hidd, National Bank of Bahrain Health Centre in Al Dair, Bu Maher Health Centre, Shaikh Sabah Al Salem Health Centre, Jedhafas Health Centre, Shaikh Jaber Health Centre, Budaiya Health Centre and Hamad Town Health Centre.

Dr Manal Al Alawi, Assistant Undersecretary of Primary Health at the Ministry of Health, stated that this step comes in line with the activation of the National Health Plan (2016-2025) in the Kingdom.

The programme is currently accommodating nearly 700 registrations per day with less than two weeks left until it ceases.