



Information and Parliament Affairs Minister Isa bin Abdulrahman Al-Hammadi stressed the importance of cooperation between the executive and legislative branches of government to enrich Bahrain's democratic practices. He was speaking as he held a work meeting with former Parliament Affairs Minister Ghanim Al Buainain for a handover of responsibilities and duties. Mr. Al Hammadi commended his predecessor for his dedicated efforts to strengthen executive-legislative cooperation.

'Physical assault caused disability'

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A man caused a permanent disability to his neighbour through a physical attack, court files revealed.

The latter reportedly slipped into a coma following the assault, but recovered his consciousness in a Thailand hospital.

According to court files, the alleged victim fell from the stairs. However, different account of events was given during interrogations as the alleged assailant stated that he acted in self defence when his neighbour wanted to attack him. "My wife told me that he (the alleged victim) had shouted on her and hurled insults on her. A few days passed, and I received a phone call from him and he was shouting at me without any reason. I requested him to hang up the phone and come to me to settle the issue," the alleged assailant told prosecutors.

"He came to me, but was very aggressive. So I wanted to protect myself. I pushed him and he fell from the stairs," he added. However, the alleged victim told prosecutors that his neighbour was causing nuisance. Therefore, he went and knocked his door to inform him. "When he opened the door he immediately attacked me. I woke up in Thailand and they told me that I had been in a coma," he explained.

The defendant, according to a medical report, suffered a permanent 45 per cent hearing loss in his right ear. The High Criminal Court yesterday adjourned the case until November 1 for review. The defendant has pleaded not guilty.

Subsidy review panel suspended

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Manama

MP Ali Al Muqla, a member of the Parliamentary Subsidy Review Committee said that the country has ended the operations of Parliamentary Subsidy Review Committee.

Mr. Al Muqla said there's no reason to justify the existence of the committee since it failed to prevent the government from lifting the meat subsidy without reaching an agreement with the Parliament.

"We also gave our full cooperation and we accepted the option of the government taking a loan, we accepted the option of ration card to help the citizens. They also announced very little



Mr. Al Muqla

amount which doesn't help the citizens and doesn't combat the meat price increase," he said.

He also pointed out that the decision to raise the price of meat was not conditioned properly and the Consumer Protection at the Ministry of Industry of Commerce did not play any active role against the price increase. The continuation of the Bahrain Livestock Company in monopolizing the market with the government's ongoing support prevents virtually any competition.

Mr. Al Muqla said that most butchers do not own farms nor slaughterhouses making the company control the market which leads to a price increase.

Mr. Al Muqla feared that the removal of subsidy would be like a train without

brakes that won't stop even if the citizens are harmed. The decision to lift meat subsidies is expected to be followed up with decisions to remove subsidies for electricity, fuel and water under a new policy which will inevitably lead to the elimination of the idea of the welfare state and a decent living to the Bahraini citizens.

He requested that the government reconsider the option of ration cards to insure decent living standards for the citizens.

He wished that the government would reconsider its decision and conduct a comprehensive scientific study on how to treat the consequences of the decision to lift the subsidy with the benefit to the Bahraini citizens.

NIHR delegation meets Bahrain UN Ambassador

Geneva

The National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR)'s delegation met the Kingdom of Bahrain's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva, Ambassador Yousef Abdel Kareem on the sidelines of the delegation's participation in the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)'s 30th session.

NIHR Deputy chairman Abdullah Al-Dirazi projected the role of the National Institution since its establishment in boosting and protecting human rights in the Kingdom as well as its role in disseminating the culture of human rights through

training programmes it offers in association with the relevant official bodies and NGOs.

He cited the National Institution's programme in collaboration with the Supreme Judicial Council through future judges, the cooperation programme with the University of Bahrain in training students at the Legal Clinic and Human Rights Centre, the training of novice lawyers, in addition to the programme for training police officers in the Royal Academy of Police (RAP).

Maria Khoury, Head of Complaints, Monitoring and Follow Up Mechanism in the National Institution, explained the mechanism of follow up

of complaints through the clue recently approved by the Commissioners Board, citing the extent of response on the part of the relevant bodies in following up complaints received by the Institution, affirming the Institution's role undertaken in terms of monitoring the situation of human rights according to its legal jurisdiction.

Ambassador Yousef Abdel Kareem commended the magnificent efforts of the National Institution in promoting human rights in the society, affirming Institution's roles. The meeting was attended by National Institution's Acting Secretary-general, Advisor Yasser Ghanim,

Husband's murder: Ruling on Nov. 2

The Indian woman is accused of killing her husband by stabbing him 72 times

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Court will deliver its ruling on November 2 in the trial of a 27-year-old Indian woman accused of killing her husband by stabbing him 72 times.

She appeared yesterday before the High Criminal Court, where her lawyer Manal Ali submitted her final argument, requesting the court to drop the charges against her client.

The woman reportedly decided to murder her 40-year-old husband after she fell in love with another man living abroad. The forensic doctor's report showed that the man died from 74 wounds across his body, ranging between human bites and knife injuries.

The woman told prosecutors that her husband 'took his own life' by stabbing himself in the neck, chest and abdomen because of financial problems. However, she was arrested after her 5-year-old daughter told police

that her mother was behind the murder. The child said that she saw her mother stabbing her father, adding that they were fighting everyday.

It is said that the man begged his wife during the final minutes of his life, to stop the attack, but she finished him off by sawing his neck. The public prosecutor charged the defendant with premeditated murder. The charges were made based on the daughter's confession, the forensic doctor's report and the evidences gathered from the scene, including the knife, which was used to commit the crime.

Ironically, the woman deliberately made some cuts on her body to make the police believe that she had attempted to prevent her husband from committing suicide. But the public prosecution ruled out her allegations, stating that it was impossible for a human to hurt himself in this manner in order to commit suicide. The woman would be sentenced to death penalty or life imprisonment if judges find her guilty.