

Najeeb Rajab's appeal rejected

DT News Network
Manama

The High Criminal Court of Appeals yesterday upheld the jail sentence against Nabeel Rajab who was convicted for purposefully spreading false rumours regarding the Kingdom's internal situations, aimed at tarnishing its reputation, Chief of Prosecution Abdulrahman Al Maawda said.

The court rejected Rajab's appeal and upheld the first instance court's sentence in favour of convicting and penalizing him.

Earlier, "the Public Prosecution had questioned Rajab in the presence of his attorney, confronted him with the available evidence against him and referred him to the relevant court".

"The first instance court

deliberated the case in the presence of his defence attorney who presented his defence argument. The defendant was provided with all the legal sureties until the court issued its implementable sentence to incarcerate him for two years. The defendant appealed the first instance court's sentence at the Court of Appeals which issued its above verdict by rejecting the appeal and

upholding the first sentence," the Public Prosecution explained in a statement issued here yesterday.

DT News reported earlier that Rajab disseminated false news during war time, which could potentially jeopardise the ongoing military operations carried out by Bahrain army as well as weakening the social fabric of the country.

Rajab was accused of

degrading several sister countries publicly.

He had alleged that the Ministry of Interior was torturing prisoners, humiliating them, denying them education and degrading dignity.

Najeeb Rajab had depicted the measures taken by the security forces during the Jaw Prison riots two years ago as torture.

Directors appointed

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His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, has issued Edict 36/2017 appointing four directors in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Fatima Abdullah Faris Al Dhaen have been appointed as Director of Organisations Directorate, Hassan Ibrahim Saleh Abdulrahman as Director of Gulf Cooperation Council Affairs, Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah Bu Qahous as Director of Financial Resources and Abdulaziz Mohamed Abdullah Al Eid as Director of Arab affairs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will implement the edict appointing the directors from the date of its issuance. The edict appointing directors will also be published in the Official Gazette.

Man held in hit-and-run case

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Manama

Traffic Police arrested a driver who hit a child in Hidd and escaped the scene on Tuesday night.

The General Directorate of Traffic confirmed yesterday that "the driver involved in a hit-and-run accident in Hidd and caused serious injuries to a child was arrested", adding that "necessary legal procedures are being undertaken".

This came after social media local networks spread a message in search of the driver, who escaped the accident scene after seriously injuring the child. The message mentioned the description of the man's vehicle.

"A black Japanese-made black SUV with a broken side mirror and black rims. Those who identify the vehicle should immediately inform the police. The incident took place in between blocks 111 and 109 in Hidd. The boy is at the hospital suffering from brain hemorrhage," the message read.

High Court upholds jail terms against 8

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Manama

The High Appeals Court yesterday upheld the jail sentence against eight persons who were convicted by the High Criminal Court. The accused were charged with sedition, illegal possession and use of arms, detonation of explosives, premeditated murder of a woman, putting public and private transport in danger, committing terror activities, concealing a fugitive and damage to property.

On 19 June 2016, the High Criminal Court sentenced the first accused to death penalty and the second to life term in jail while seven others were awarded three years' jail term. The first and second defendant were stripped off their citizenship and asked to pay damages and fine.

The accused planted and detonated an explosive device on Shaikh Jaber Al Ahmad

Al Sabah Street that killed a Bahraini woman, and the blast killed the victim who happened

injuring her children. Investigations led to the culprits, including a fugitive who is currently in Iran working in the interest of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), who tasked two defendants who carried out the crime to detonate the explosive device that targeted police patrols in a bid to kill them. He furnished both defendants with the explosive device. After monitoring police movement in the area, the two accused planted the explosive device in place to implement their plot. They subsequently detonated the explosive device

and the blast killed the victim who happened to be driving her car at the time and place of the incident. The women were killed and the children accompanying her in the car were injured. The first suspect escaped after committing the crime. He was sheltered and concealed by several suspects. The suspects were arrested in compliance with the legally prescribed procedures and referred to the Prosecution.



Lebanon PM Hariri shelves decision to resign

Beirut

Lebanon's Saad Al Hariri yesterday shelved his decision to resign as prime minister at the request of President Michel Aoun to allow for dialogue, easing a crisis that had deepened tensions around the Middle East.

Hariri made his announcement after returning to Beirut for the first time since he quit abruptly in a November 4 broadcast from Saudi Arabia.

At the presidential palace near Beirut, Hariri said he hoped this move would open "a new gateway for a responsible dialogue...that deals with divisive issues and their repercussions on Lebanon's relations with Arab brothers."

"I presented today my resignation to President Aoun and he urged me to



Saad Al Hariri

wait before offering it and to hold onto it for more dialogue about its reasons and political background, and I showed responsiveness," he said in a televised statement.

Hariri said all Lebanese must commit to keeping the country

out of regional conflicts, a reference to the powerful, Iran-backed Hezbollah whose regional military role has alarmed Saudi Arabia.

Lebanese state officials and senior politicians close to Hariri have said Riyadh forced

Hariri to quit and held him in the Kingdom, which Saudi Arabia and Hariri have denied.

The resignation shocked even Hariri's aides. His return to Lebanon, late on Tuesday night, followed an intervention by France.

Aoun, a political ally of Hezbollah, had refused to accept the resignation on the grounds that Hariri declared it from abroad in "mysterious circumstances".

Hariri thanked Aoun on Wednesday for what he described as his determination to protect Lebanon's stability, his respect for its constitution, and "his rejection of departing from it under any circumstances".

The resignation pitched Lebanon to the forefront of the regional rivalry between Saudi

Arabia and Islamist Iran, which backs Hezbollah.

A long-time Saudi ally, Hariri had cited fear of assassination in his resignation speech, and attacked Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah for sowing strife in the Arab world.

His resignation was followed by a steep escalation in Saudi statements against the Lebanese government, which includes Hezbollah. Riyadh said the Lebanese government as a whole - not just Hezbollah - had declared war against it.

Western governments including the United States struck a different tone, affirming their support for Hariri and Lebanon and the stability of the country, which is hosting 1.5 million Syrian refugees - nearly one-in-four of the population.

Ahead of his return to Beirut, Hariri had stressed the importance of the Lebanese state policy of staying out of regional conflicts, notably Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is battling Iran-backed Houthi militia.

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who had also called for Hariri's return, said on Monday his group was open to "any dialogue and any discussion".

Nasrallah also issued his clearest denial yet of any Hezbollah role in Yemen.

A government minister from the United Arab Emirates, a close ally of Saudi Arabia, said Lebanon must implement its policy of staying out of Middle East conflicts in order to start getting out of its crisis and regional ones.- Reuters