

## BD3m unlicensed investment convict appeals 10-year jail term

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An unlicensed 'investment' scheme that drew in more than BD3 million is back before the First High Criminal Court, as the Bahraini man convicted over it fights a 10-year jail term and a BD100,000 fine.

The original ruling also ordered the confiscation of the crime proceeds, repayment of the money to its owners, and temporary compensation of BD6,000 for the first civil claimant and BD1,000 for the second, for material and moral damage.

At the latest hearing, the court heard the defence argue that the dispute with the first complainant was a plain commercial deal, not an investment of others' funds.

Counsel said the second complainant was a friend of the accused and that the amount between them was a loan, which had been paid back in full.

### Investor

As for the third complainant, the defence described him as an investor and partner and said that, although he claimed to have handed the accused money, he had produced no proof.

Defence witnesses were also called. They spoke about how they knew the accused and the nature of his dealings with the complainants.

The First High Criminal Court then fixed 13 January next year to give its judgment, and ordered that the accused remain in custody until the verdict.

## Woman held for embezzling BD25,000 from employer account



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The Ministry of Interior announced that the Northern Governorate Police Directorate has arrested a 30-year-old Asian woman for embezzling more than BD25,000 from her elderly employer's account.

The suspect allegedly transferred the funds to her personal account using an electronic application.

The Northern Police Directorate stated that, upon receiving the report, the authorities immediately launched an investigation and successfully apprehended the suspect.

Legal procedures are currently underway in preparation for referring the case to the Public Prosecution.

# Tax relief

## MP seeks VAT-free zone near Khalifa Port to support storage and re-export operations

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MP Hassan Ebrahim is pushing for a free zone near Khalifa Port where companies would be able to store and re-export goods without paying value added tax (VAT) in advance, with VAT only charged on consignments released into the Bahraini market after sale.

The text asks for the zone to be created close to Khalifa Port so that firms can bring in cargo, keep it in storage and ship it on to other countries without VAT being collected, so long as the goods do not enter Bahrain.

Under the scheme, VAT would be linked to actual sales rather than to the arrival of shipments.

### Goods

Tax would fall due when goods leave the free zone for domestic buyers, instead of being charged at the border.

According to the explanatory memorandum, this is aimed in particular at easing cash-flow strain for small and medium-sized businesses that struggle when taxes are paid up front.

The memorandum roots the plan in Article 10(a) of the Constitution, which states that the national economy is based on social justice and fair co-operation between public and pri-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

“The zone would also open the door to new services in the logistics field.”

- MP HASSAN EBRAHIM

ivate activity, with economic development and prosperity for citizens pursued within the law.

Ebrahim presents the proposed zone as one way to support that framework while keeping pace with changing trade patterns.

### Infrastructure

Choosing a location near Khalifa Port is described as an attempt to make better use of the port's existing infrastruc-

ture and its role as a busy trade route.

The free zone is pitched as a hub for supply chains and transit trade, giving Bahrain extra weight on the Gulf logistics map at a time when international companies are looking for storage centres with flexible terms, lower costs and smooth cargo handling.

Goods brought into the zone for onward shipment would be exempt from VAT, which, the memorandum argues, would make Bahrain more attractive to companies whose business models depend on re-export. Linking tax to realised income, rather than to warehouse stock, is presented as a way to help firms expand imports and keep goods moving without early tax demands acting as a brake.

## 50 illegal workers detained, 83 deported



### LMRA conducts 1,817 inspection campaigns and visits

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Fifty violating and irregular workers were detained, and 83 others were deported, following 1,817 inspection campaigns and visits conducted by the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) between 23 and 29 November 2025.

The inspection campaigns and visits also resulted in monitoring a number of violations related to the provisions of a number of regulating laws, especially the Labour Market Regulatory Authority and the Residency Laws in the Kingdom of Bahrain, noting that legal measures were taken regarding the observed violations.

The Authority pointed out that 1,780 inspection visits were carried out on various shops in all governorates, in addition to 37 joint inspection campaigns, 17 campaigns in the Capital Governorate, 4

campaigns in the Muharraq Governorate, 7 campaigns in the Northern Governorate and 9 campaigns in the Southern Governorate.

The government entities that participated in the campaigns are the Ministry of Interior, represented by the Nationality, Passports and Residence Affairs (NPRA), the Governorate's respective Police Directorate, the General Directorate of Crime Detection and Forensic Science, and the General Directorate of Verdict Enforcement and Alternative Sentencing, as well as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority, and the Social Insurance Organization.

The Authority affirmed the continuation of joint coordination with government agencies to intensify inspection campaigns in all governorates of the Kingdom, and to address any violations or practices that negatively affect the stability and competitiveness of the labour market or harm economic and social security of the Kingdom.

## Mild 3.3 quake recorded in Bahrain

### Residents buzzing after light jolt

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Bahrain experienced an unusual late-night jolt early yesterday after a light earthquake of magnitude 3.3 was recorded within the kingdom's territory, according to the Meteorological Directorate.

The tremor occurred at 23:58 UTC (2:58 AM local time) on 1 December 2025, with its epicentre located at 26.07°N, 50.60°E, likely in the Riffa area.

While no damage or injuries were reported, the quake sparked a wave of mixed reactions across the country.

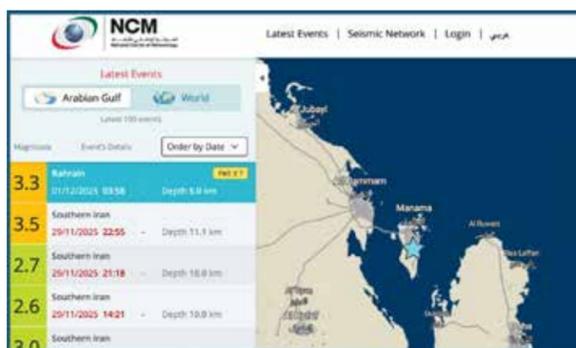
Many residents slept through the event entirely, but others, particularly in Riffa, Zallaq, Saar, parts of Manama, and Hamala, described feeling a brief, unexpected shake.

### Sensation

Speaking to The Daily Tribune, a Riffa resident said they woke to what felt like someone lightly nudging the bed, while another compared the sensation to "a slightly heavy shake moving through the building."

Earthquakes originating inside Bahrain are extremely rare, as the country lies far from major tectonic fault lines.

Most tremors felt locally in



People actively talking about the light earthquake, sharing reactions online



the past have been triggered by distant seismic activity from the Zagros belt in Iran and Iraq, one of the region's most active geological zones. The recent uptick in mild tremors across the wider Gulf has drawn attention. Just days ago, Saudi Arabia recorded a small earthquake measuring 3.43 in magnitude.

### Factors

Experts say the region's sensitivity to seismic events is be-

coming more noticeable due to a combination of natural and human-linked factors. Across the Gulf, tremors are often tied to distant earthquakes in the Zagros Mountains, where intense tectonic pressure routinely produces seismic waves that can travel far across the region.

The Gulf's deep sedimentary basin is known to amplify these long-period waves, making even remote quakes feel stronger onshore.

## Kooheji and Danat partnership elevates trust in certified jewellery



Kooheji Jewellery CEO Ahmed Jawdet and Danat counterpart Nora Jamsheer sign the agreement

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Kooheji Jewellery reaffirmed its dedication to maintaining the highest specifications in diamonds and gemstones, describing quality as the cornerstone of its long-standing relationship with consumers.

Kooheji Jewellery CEO Ahmed Jawdet emphasised that selecting top-grade stones continues to "enhance the trust between us and the customers", reinforcing the brand's reputation across Bahrain and the Gulf.

The company formalised a cooperation agreement with the Bahrain Institute for Pearls and Gemstones (Danat) during the final day of Jewellery Arabia, a timing that reflected the

significance of the announcement.

Jawdet described the partnership as "very important", noting that Danat is a national institution Kooheji Jewellery is proud to collaborate with.

### Agreement

Under the agreement, Danat will conduct specialised testing and documentation on Kooheji's jewellery pieces.

Jawdet highlighted that certification from a respected laboratory in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia gives buyers stronger assurance in the authenticity of every item.

He stressed that the partnership "provides even greater trust between us and Danat" and ultimately strengthens confidence in the jewellery purchased from the company.