

Ensuring food safety during Ashoora season

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The Northern Governor, His Excellency Ali bin Al Shaikh Abdulhussain Al Asfoor, convened a virtual meeting with the heads of food and drink distribution areas (Madaifs) and relevant government representatives to coordinate preparations for the Ashoora season.

The Northern Governor emphasised the governorate's ongoing collaboration with partners to ensure food safety for visitors, underscoring its commitment to public health standards and community well-being through adherence to World Health Organisation (WHO) Healthy Cities Programme guidelines.

The Ministry of Health officials outlined critical food safety protocols for high-temperature conditions, emphasising the importance of proper preparation and storage standards.

The General Directorate of Civil Defence representatives complemented these measures with essential safety guidance, including secure gas cylinder mechanisms and hygienic food distribution practices.

The Northern Governor announced plans to recognise hostels.

Price of deception

Top court upholds jail terms in Tamkeen fraud over fake job contracts

Mohammed Darwish

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Bahrain's top court has upheld prison terms for two men who faked job contracts for 23 ghost workers in order to extract BD86,000 from Tamkeen's employment support fund.

The Court of Cassation confirmed the three-year jail sentences handed to both defendants.

The first was also fined BD5,000 and will be deported once he completes his sentence. The second was ordered to pay BD1,000.

Acquittal

In the same ruling, judges overturned an earlier acquittal and sentenced a third man to three years in prison and a BD1,000 fine.

The scheme involved bogus employment paperwork and forged wage transfers submitted to Tamkeen, which had been running a fund to support private sector jobs.

The contracts named 23 people who were never employed and never worked at the company listed.

Although the firm was regis-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

tered with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and had enrolled the so-called employees with the Social Insurance Organisation and the Ministry of Labour, it had no active premises.

Field visits carried out by Tamkeen found no trace of operations at the address on record or anywhere else.

The Public Prosecution said the first defendant submitted fake contracts bearing forged signatures to make it appear that real salaries had been paid.

Investigators said the aim was to tap into Tamkeen's payroll support.

The Fourth Lower Criminal Court sentenced the first and second defendants to prison and fined them.

The first was also to be deported.

Appeal

A third man was cleared at trial but later convicted on appeal.

The High Criminal Appeals Court upheld the sentences for the first two.

The Public Prosecution challenged the acquittal of the third man, leading to the Court of Cassation's decision.

The complaint was filed by Tamkeen with the Anti-Cor-



The scheme involved bogus employment paperwork and forged wage transfers submitted to Tamkeen.

ruption Directorate, part of the General Directorate for Combating Corruption and Economic and Electronic Security.

The directorate's findings confirmed that the business owner had worked with two others to present fake paperwork and siphon money from the fund.

The second defendant was charged with forging ten contracts, while the third was also found to have been involved in forging documents and aiding the first in claiming the funds.

The court ordered the confiscation of the seized material.

Women 'locked and forced to entertain' in trafficking trial

Mohammed Darwish

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An Arab woman and two Asian men stood trial this week accused of trafficking two young Arab women into Bahrain, where they were allegedly worked to exhaustion, pushed to drink, and locked inside a hotel room to stop them escaping.

The High Criminal Court has set 15 July for the next hearing. All three defendants deny the charges.

Prosecutors say the women had arrived expecting dance work but were met with something altogether grimmer. Their passports were taken.

They were told to wear makeup and entertain male customers, but the pay never came. Instead, they were made to work long hours without pause, watched closely, and at night, locked behind a metal door.

The prosecution says they were preyed on in a vulnerable state and kept under threat.

There was no way out. Attempts to resist brought more pressure. The businesswoman is accused of docking their wages entirely, with no explanation.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Financial Statements

31 December 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as at 31 December 2024

	(Bahraini Dinars)	
	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property and equipment	2,336,737	2,045,761
Total non-current assets	2,336,737	2,045,761
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	3,076,698	3,026,362
Investments	22,173,150	20,998,603
Cash and bank balances	13,904,341	16,183,769
Total current assets	39,154,189	40,208,734
Total assets	41,490,926	42,254,495
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated surplus	15,946,270	13,728,146
Total accumulated funds	15,946,270	13,728,146
Non-current liabilities		
Employee end of service liabilities	51,841	53,477
Lease liabilities	278,595	13,713
Deferred income	18,663,258	21,828,502
Total non-current liabilities	18,993,694	21,895,692
Current liabilities		
Deferred income	5,288,721	5,270,284
Lease liabilities	272,124	299,427
Trade and other payables	990,117	1,060,946
Total current liabilities	6,550,962	6,630,657
Total liabilities	25,544,656	28,526,349
Total accumulated funds and liabilities	41,490,926	42,254,495

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES for the year ended 31 December 2024

	(Bahraini Dinars)	
	2024	2023
INCOME		
License fees	8,522,252	4,329,295
Frequency and spectrum fees	9,098,699	10,667,218
Numbering fees	1,073,371	1,075,036
Other regulatory income	2,042,211	2,042,480
Interest income	200,139	704,110
Investments fair value gain	1,174,547	998,603
Other income	460,251	392,776
Total income	22,571,470	20,209,518
EXPENSES		
Staff costs	(4,037,637)	(4,045,069)
General and administrative expenses	(1,333,440)	(1,190,447)
Consultancy and legal fees	(588,035)	(703,385)
Advertising and publicity	(49,996)	(91,317)
Lease interest expense	(41,073)	(23,805)
Depreciation	(575,019)	(427,349)
Total expenses	(6,625,200)	(6,481,372)
Surplus for the year	15,946,270	13,728,146
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total surplus for the year	15,946,270	13,728,146

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the year ended 31 December 2024

	(Bahraini Dinars)	
	2024	2023
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus for the year	15,946,270	13,728,146
Adjustment For:		
Amortisation of deferred income	(5,272,842)	(5,270,368)
Investment fair value gain	(1,174,547)	(998,603)
Depreciation	575,019	427,349
Impairment on trade receivables	-	72,101
Provision for employees' benefits	10,524	7,506
	10,084,424	7,966,131
Working capital changes:		
Increase in trade and other receivables	(50,336)	(580,591)
Increase in trade and other payables	489,428	616,602
Lease liabilities paid	(322,674)	(299,427)
Deferred income received during the year	2,126,034	9,036,750
Employees benefits paid	(12,161)	-
Net cash generated from operating activities	12,314,715	16,739,465
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property and equipment	(865,995)	(1,187,137)
Acquisitions of investments	-	(20,000,000)
Decrease in term deposits with banks	7,773,438	17,226,562
Net cash generate/ (used) in investing activities	6,907,443	(3,960,575)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Transfer made to the Ministry of Finance and National Economy	(13,728,146)	(11,764,523)
Net cash used in financing activities	(13,728,146)	(11,764,523)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents during the year	5,494,010	1,014,367
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	8,410,331	7,395,964
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	13,904,341	8,410,331

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 11 June 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Engr. Maryam Ahmed Jumaan
Chairperson

Philip Marnick
General Director