

COURT STORIES**Five years in jail for attempting to smuggle 98 capsules of drugs**

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The High Criminal Court sentenced an Asian man to five years in prison for attempting to smuggle 98 capsules stuffed with methamphetamine.

It also ordered the deportation of the defendant after serving the punishment and fined him BD3,000. The defendant was sent on trial for possessing illicit drugs with the intent to peddle and use them.

The accused had arrived in the Kingdom of Bahrain via Bahrain International Airport from his Asian country and his behaviour raised suspicion.

As a result, the defendant was requested to go to the

red lane for extensive search. He was clean, thus, he was ordered to be x-rayed. It was discovered that he was carrying 98 capsules inside his body.

Anti-narcotics investigations indicated that the accused was working within a network that brings narcotics to the Kingdom with the intent of trafficking. The role of the accused is to transport narcotic substances in his gut by ingestion of them.

By examining the capsules in a laboratory it is proven they contained methamphetamine. His urine sample proved that he had taken narcotic drugs. He admitted that people offered him to smuggle the drug into Bahrain for BD1,000.

Man on trial for bringing 8K of mercury to Bahrain

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An Asian passenger almost caused a disaster on one of the flights coming to Bahrain and heading to one of the Gulf countries as he carried 8 kilograms of mercury inside one of his bags, and the substance leaked onto the floor of the baggage compartment on the board of the plane.

As a result, the defendant was sent for trial before the High Criminal Court over accusations of putting the plane and the passengers at risk.

According to court files, the defendant almost caused a catastrophe as the mercury could have interacted with

other substances and materials in the place and made it permanently unusable or even destroyed it. The passengers aboard the plane were at risk of losing their lives.

As per the documents, the material was spotted by workers tasked to transport the luggage from the defendant's plane to another one as Bahrain was not his final destination.

They informed the Civil Defence, whose members arrived and handled the matter. The plane wasn't allowed to fly as a replacement was provided for the safety of the passengers. The defendant admitted to using mercury in cleaning gold.

Residency rule violators

The Southern Governorate Police Directorate, in cooperation with the Southern Municipality, has carried out an inspection campaign in Hajiyat area. Several individuals were arrested for violating the residency rules, and illegal selling areas were removed and products seized. Legal proceedings are being taken to refer the violators to the Public Prosecution.

Warning message against 'excess use of antibiotics'

It could bring a dangerous level of health hazard, according to Gulf Health Council

Zahra Ayaz
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A prominent health authority in the region has made a warning call against the excess use of antibiotics, which could supposedly bring a dangerous level of health hazard among the populations of the region.

"Take antibiotics only if prescribed by physicians," said the Gulf Health Council yesterday in a warning message issued.

"It has now become a common habit to buy antibiotics and consume whenever a person is infected with common cold, flu or any other health disorder. This is a very dangerous self-medication act, which will have implications on the micro and macro levels over the world's healthcare sector," the council highlighted.

Antibiotics are crucially important tools doctors have to fight life-threatening bacterial diseases, but are losing their effectiveness against some infections. The Tennessee Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cite overuse and misuse of antibiotics, which can decrease their healing capabilities and contribute to the rise of drug-resistant bacteria.

"Antibiotics are not benign medications and they should not be prescribed or taken unless



Health authorities have been continuously warning against the excess use of antibiotics

absolutely necessary to combat bacterial infections. Antibiotics have the strength to kill bacteria, which are living organisms. Our bodies have good bacteria that help with food processing and preventing illness. If these good bacteria are destroyed along with bad bacteria, we are at risk for a variety of serious health problems."

"As we approach cold and flu season, our concern about misuse of antibiotics increases. Antibiotics fight bacteria, not viruses. Because the common cold and most respiratory infections are caused by viruses, antibiotics should not be prescribed or used. Taking antibiotics when not necessary can make future infections harder to treat and

increases your risk of becoming ill from antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Taking unnecessary antibiotics can also cause allergic reactions in some people, as well as other side effects."

"Antibiotics are generally safe medications, but they can cause side effects, some of which are serious. Allergies are the most frequent side effects of antibiotics, but many other adverse effects are possible, including reducing the barriers to infection by drug-resistant bacteria such as *Colostridium difficile* colitis, a deadly diarrhea, and drug-resistant staph infections."

The Kingdom's Health Ministry has also many times issued warnings against the unnecessary or over use of antibiotics.

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GULF HEALTH COUNCIL STATEMENT

According to Bahrain Medical Bulletin, the judicious use of antimicrobials could stop the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. "It is advised to improve antibiotic prescription through establishing hospital antibiotic guidelines, consulting infectious disease physicians, a microbiologist and clinical pharmacist for their input regarding the use of the medications. An Antibiotic Stewardship Program (ASPA) could optimise the management of infections and lower the adverse effect of antimicrobials."

Effective anti-drug campaign cuts crime rates by 30%

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The security forces have accomplished reducing crime rates by 30%, Interior Minister General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa announced.

In this context, the Director-General of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science, Brigadier Abdulaziz Al Rumaihi, highlighted comprehensive efforts to build anti-narcotics capabilities. He said that the launch of the National Anti-Drug and Psychotropic Substances Plan comes to tackle drug cases.

He revealed that the recovery programme has contributed to helping 416 addicts. At the same time, hotline 996 was launched this year to provide an easy and safe way to report drug cases with confidentiality. The hotline has so far received 1,049 cases.

He highlighted the directorate's awareness role through holding lectures at schools, mosques, community centres (Maatam), worksites and clubs.



Drug suspects arrested with illegal substances

He said that in 2021, a total of 1,048 cases were registered, leading to the arrest of 1,229 individuals. The Anti-Narcotics Police discovered 997 cases from the beginning of 2022 until September 25. The confiscations

reached 1,97 items.

Anti-Narcotics personnel contributed to the arrest of 73 suspects in the last three months in cooperation with concerned authorities. Confiscations from the arrestees were worth thou-

sands of dinars.

He hailed regional cooperation between Gulf countries as from 1 January 2021 to 1 September 2022 reached the coordination involved around eight cases.

Tenant expelled for failing to pay nine-month rent

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The High Commercial Court has ordered the expulsion of a supermarket occupying a building after its owner defaulted payments worth BD16,500.

According to the landlord's lawyer, the tenant failed to cover the rental fees for nine months,

as a result of which a case was filed against him to force him to leave the building.

The defendant is said to have agreed to a lease contract which stipulates him to pay BD1,800 for renting the space to operate a supermarket. The defendant handed several cheques to cover the monthly rental fees, but they

bounced back as his account was empty.

His lawyer stated that the Court ruled to expel the defendant from the building, and obligate him to pay the plaintiff an amount of BD16,200 for his failure to pay the rent for a period of nine months.

"The plaintiff provided sufficient evidence that a contract was signed and it matured. The defendant defaulted in paying for nine months, therefore, he is obliged to pay and at the same time to leave the place due to the fact that the contract has expired," the Court said in its ruling.