

Bring back mediators

MP calls for return of traditional Mukhtar system to settle local disputes

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TDT | Manama

Reviving Bahrain's traditional Mukhtar system (local community mediator) would ease the strain on the justice system by sorting out minor disputes informally, MP Jalal Kadhém has said.

Kadhém urged the government to reintroduce the Mukhtars legally under the Governorates Law, suggesting the system could reduce case-loads on the courts by settling disagreements amicably within neighbourhoods.

"Many cases reaching official

channels today are quite minor and could be handled perfectly well by a Mukhtar," he said. "It saves official resources and builds trust in community-driven solutions."

The Mukhtar once played a strong role in Bahraini neighbourhoods, mediating in disputes, assisting locals with paperwork, and acting as a link to government bodies.

Problems

Kadhém said the return of Mukhtars would help communities identify problems early and deal with them quietly.

"Historically, the Mukhtar



system succeeded in keeping communities together," he said. "Restoring it would mend family divisions and restore traditional social bonds."

He noted the Cabinet had previously backed the system in

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- MP JALAL KADHEM

2011 as a way to support local governors and maintain public order.

Social shift

According to Kadhém, current social shifts and rising family

disputes mean that reviving it has become urgent.

"The Mukhtar helps maintain Bahraini customs and traditions," he said. "They can defuse family disagreements and calm tensions without involving the

courts."

Kadhém also criticised reliance on social media to air family grievances, suggesting it usually inflames tensions rather than resolving them.

"Social media thrives on controversy, not calm," he warned. "Problems are best handled discreetly by trusted community figures."

Kadhém concluded by saying the reintroduction of Mukhtars across Bahrain's villages and towns matched the leadership's vision of community collaboration and would prevent minor issues from growing into serious crises.

Barbar sewer network completed for 169 homes



Council chairman Dr Sayed Shubber Ebrahim Al Wadaei visits the site

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A new sewerage network serving 169 properties in Block 522 of Barbar has been completed, the Northern Municipal Council has confirmed.

The work was carried out by the Ministry of Works following requests from residents and proposals put forward by the council.

Cooperation

Council chairman Dr Sayed Shubber Ebrahim Al Wadaei said cooperation between the council and the ministry had helped keep the work moving and remove delays on the ground.

He said council members had worked alongside ministry field teams, passing on reports and helping to smooth out snags.

Tasks were divided between both sides, with direct contact in the field used to deal with issues as they arose.

Dr Al Wadaei said the project falls within the ministry's wider effort to keep pace with urban growth by extending infrastructure to more areas and improving daily life for both citizens and residents.

Support

He also thanked Minister of Works Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj and Undersecretary Shaikh Mishaal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa for backing the council's proposals.

Online investment scam

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A ruling is expected on 26 August in the case of three defendants, two Arab and one foreign, along with their company, accused of laundering nearly BD500,000 linked to a series of online frauds.

Prosecutors say the accused lured victims through online adverts claiming to offer investment opportunities in cryptocurrency, stock trading and gold.

People transferred money, believing they were securing future profits, only to realise later that the entire operation was a sham.

The Financial Intelligence National Centre (FINC), drawing on confidential sources, identified a company established by the second and third defendants.

It was registered as a gold investment business but is believed to have served as the



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main vehicle for the fraud.

The group allegedly ran online campaigns promising stable returns, backed by doctored images of growing financial portfolios sent to reassure investors.

Investigators estimate that over BD400,000 were collected.

The money was then sent out of Bahrain and converted into cryptocurrency, with the aim of concealing its origin.

Transfers were carried out through several overseas banks.

The matter came to the attention of the authorities after a number of victims filed complaints.

Each had responded to adverts, deposited funds and later found themselves ignored.

The court is due to rule on the charges against the three accused and their company later this month.

New office for trafficking victims



The Ministry of Interior has established a specialised office under the General Directorate of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science to support victims of human trafficking. The office, aligned with international standards, provides a safe environment for victims to give testimony and includes a dedicated space for children. It aims to enhance cooperation with judicial authorities from investigation to prosecution. This step reflects Bahrain's commitment to combating trafficking in persons, in line with Law No. 1 of 2008 with Respect to Trafficking in Persons and the Palermo Protocol, ratified under Law No. (4) of 2004.

Boat seized for illegal fishing in restricted zone

● Asian suspects arrested during routine patrols

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As part of ongoing efforts to enforce maritime law and ensure safety at sea, the Coast Guard has seized a boat carrying two Asian nationals found fishing in a prohibited marine area. The Coast Guard Command confirmed that the individuals were apprehended

during routine patrols and that all necessary legal procedures are being undertaken in connection with the incident.

Authorities reiterated their commitment to safeguarding Bahrain's maritime environment and enforcing regulations across territorial waters.

Appeals Court clears Bahraini employee in vehicle seizure case



● Company owner fined BD500

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A six-month prison sentence handed to a Bahraini employee for obstructing enforcement procedures has been overturned by the Second High Appeals Court, which acquitted him and instead imposed a BD500 fine on the company owner involved in the case.

The pair had been accused of deliberately preventing the seizure of a company-owned vehicle that was meant to be sold at auction, according to the employee's lawyer, Reem Al Mahari.

Prosecutors alleged that the two men concealed one of the company's cars from enforcement officers tasked with executing court rulings against the firm in 2024.

The Lower Criminal Court had found them guilty and sentenced each to six months in prison, setting bail at BD100 to suspend the punishment. Both defendants challenged the decision.

Evidence

In its ruling, the appeals court said the evidence presented against the employee gave rise to doubt.

The judges stated that after examining the case file and hearing the arguments, they were not satisfied that the man had taken any steps to hide the vehicle or help someone else to do so.

The incident began when a

Prosecutors alleged that the two men concealed one of the company's cars from enforcement officers tasked with executing court rulings against the firm in 2024.

private bailiff moved to carry out seizure orders against a company owned by the Asian co-defendant.

Two cars were handed over at the company premises, while the location of a third was shared separately.

Vehicles

The bailiff managed to secure the two vehicles on site, but the third was missing.

The court found no clear link between the Bahraini employee and the missing vehicle.

It ruled there was no proof he had concealed it or acted in collusion with the owner.

That gap in the prosecution's case led the court to clear him of all charges.

Rule

The judges referred to the long-standing rule that doubt must be weighed in favour of the accused.

They added that the risk of convicting someone without firm grounds would do more harm than letting someone go free.

The earlier verdict was overturned, and the employee was acquitted. The company owner, however, remains liable for a BD500 fine.