

# Alive, not dead



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A businessman appeared before the High Criminal Court accused of helping to fake his brother's death in order to claim a life insurance payout of \$500,000.

The man said to have died was later found to be alive and living abroad.

The case centres on a 44-year-old investor who arranged a life insurance policy in April 2023, naming his wife as beneficiary.

Four months later, the insurer received notice from a broker stating that he had died in an Asian country. A claim was submitted and a civil court ruled in favour of the wife.

The company requested documents.

### Investigation

A death certificate and a letter from a law office were provided, but doubts were raised. A private investigation was launched.

Findings from the inquiry were at odds with the claim. No funeral prayer had taken place. No grave was dug.

The gravedigger reported no record of burial. A local imam confirmed no service had been held.

### Witness

The man's son, listed as a witness to the death, could not say where his father had been buried.

The death certificate, which carried an official stamp from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was later found to be invalid. Investigators confirmed the man was alive.

Prosecutors say the businessman, aged 46, worked with an unknown party to forge the document.

They allege he and his brother's wife knowingly submitted it to the court to support the



**A death certificate stamped by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was later found invalid when investigators confirmed the man was alive.**

### Evidence

While no money was paid out, the three face charges of attempted fraud, forgery of public papers, and misleading the judiciary.

### Records

Further evidence was given by a hotel manager, who said he overheard the accused telling someone that he had helped his brother obtain an investment visa, register a company in his name, and leave the country.

He said he planned to apply for a death certificate to claim the insurance money.

A former hotel employee said he heard the man speak of offering a bribe to secure the paperwork.

### Incidents

He recalled the accused saying that the brother would not return to Bahrain and that steps were being taken to change his records in the Asian country.

Prosecutors stated that the attempt to obtain the money was stopped before any payment was made, after concerns were raised over the documents.

# Born Without Proof

Parents forced to seek court orders for basic birth certificates

● Legal window is 15 days

● Court process adds expenses

● Awareness among expats low

Mahir Haneef  
TDT | Manama

Expatriate parents in Bahrain who delay registering their child's birth beyond the legally allowed 15 days are being forced to approach the courts for a certificate, according to Pravasi Legal Cell – Bahrain Chapter.

The organisation has raised an alert urging all expatriates to act on time, saying that several families it assisted had to bear unnecessary legal and financial burdens due to delays.

### Court-only option after deadline

“Many parents miss the deadline thinking it can be handled later or through the embassy, but that is not the case,” said Sudheer Thirunilath, Global PRO and President of Pravasi



**If a birth in Bahrain is not registered within 15 days, parents have only 30 more days to file a delay request before the case is sent to court.**

Legal Cell Bahrain Chapter.

He said that after the 15-day legal period ends, parents must approach a special delay committee under the Information and eGovernment Authority. Once this period lapses, the only option is through the courts.

“Court procedures involve lawyer fees, civil rulings, execution letters, and other steps. At Salmaniya Medical Complex, a normal delivery is charged at BD 125 and a caesarean costs BD 150, while the birth certificate fee is BD 0.500 for newborns aged one to seven days and BD 0.900 for those older than a week. Ad-



Birth certificate

ditional copies cost BD 1 each, What would have cost around BHD 125 or 150 ends up becoming far more expensive,” he added.

“This situation could be due to financial hardship undergone by the couple during the time of delivery,” Thirunilath explained. “Such situations are mostly faced by people belonging to the low-income category or couples who have lost their jobs during the time of delivery. They end up delaying applying for birth certificates. There are some who postpone for applying later also.”

He said recent cases handled by Pravasi Legal Cell were all related

to couples in financial distress. “There were some cases in which labour charges were paid by the couple but they were not issued birth certificates. If a birth certificate is not issued from there within two weeks, the matter has to go before a court. When the couple is informed that they have to approach a court, they tend to delay it,” he said.

### High cost and long wait

“When the matter is handled through court, it results in expenditure of around 400 BD and it is time consuming also,” Thirunilath added. “That is why we're calling for awareness on this. There are people who don't take care of this in a timely fashion and there are people who think that everything is done with the delivery. They face trouble when they attempt to go back to their homelands or face visa renewals.”

Pravasi Legal Cell warned that there are many cases of undocumented persons due to such delays, and stressed that awareness is crucial. It noted that a delayed birth certificate could prevent children from accessing passports, education, healthcare, and may even restrict future travel.

# Housing Ministry Rides eKey Wave

● 23,000 online transactions

● eKey 2.0 integration complete

● Virtual centre wins award

Mahir Haneef  
TDT | Manama

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has emerged as one of the first government bodies to fully harness Bahrain's upgraded eKey 2.0 system, delivering thousands of secure housing transactions online during the first half of 2025.

Assistant Undersecretary for Resources and Information Donia Faisal Sarhan confirmed that the Ministry recorded around 117,000 visits to its website and completed approximately 23,000 transactions through its eServices and the national portal, Bahrain.bh.

The integration with eKey 2.0, developed in partnership with the Information & eGovernment Authority, has enabled safer and faster access to 32 housing-related digital services. These include financial support applications under the ‘Tas’heel+’ programme, housing maintenance requests, status inquiries, and more.

Sarhan noted that six of these services were either newly introduced or upgraded in the



Donia Faisal Sarhan

past six months, in line with the government's 2023–2026 programme to digitise public services.

The Ministry's Virtual Customer Service Centre also saw rising demand, with nearly 4,930 visitors and 2,036 ap-

pointments scheduled for financial consultations and remote assistance.

Sarhan said the numbers reflect growing public trust in the Ministry's digital services, supported by interactive channels that simplify communication between citizens and officials.

The Ministry's digital transformation push has also drawn recognition. Its Virtual Customer Service Centre earned the Platinum Shield in the fifth edition of the ‘Taqeem’ Government Service Centres Evaluation Programme. Separately, the Ministry received the 2025 Bahrain Digital Content Award in the Government and Citizens Participation category from the Bahrain Technology Companies Society.

# Virtual emergency response drill at airport

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As part of efforts to strengthen preparedness and readiness for handling various emergency scenarios, several directorates of the Ministry of Interior participated in a virtual emergency response drill conducted by Bahrain International Airport Company.

The drill aimed to test coordination mechanisms and immediate response capabilities among relevant entities, while assessing the effectiveness of operational procedures to enhance public safety standards.

The exercise featured a series of simulated scenarios, including a mock aircraft incident, during which evacuation procedures were implemented, emergency plans were activated, and



Preparing for emergency situation

the incident was managed in a virtual environment replicating real-life conditions. The simulation adhered

to internationally recognised best practices in crisis management.

### Incidents

This drill comes within the framework of national efforts to enhance cooperation and integration among stakeholders, while improving the readiness of emergency response teams to deal with various types of incidents.

It reflects the advanced level of preparedness and risk mitigation that the Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved.

The exercise reaffirms Bahrain's commitment to continuous improvement in emergency management and inter-agency collaboration at critical infrastructure sites.

# Man held over indecent video posted online

● Suspect engages in conduct contrary to values of Bahraini society

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A man has been taken into custody after prosecutors said he posted a video on social media showing behaviour offensive to public decency and human dignity.

The Public Prosecution received a report from the Cybercrime Directorate at the Ministry of Interior's General Directorate for Combating Corruption, Economic and

Electronic Security.

The footage, they said, showed the suspect engaging in conduct contrary to the values of Bahraini society.

He was arrested on orders from the prosecution, brought in for questioning, and shown the video.

The suspect admitted to sharing the clip, saying he had hoped to receive money from followers on his account.

He remains in detention as investigations continue.

The Chief of the Cybercrime Prosecution remarked that such conduct runs against public order and morals and may lead to legal consequences.