

BD6mln investment fraud trial begins

352 victims pursue case against financial company as defendants deny charges

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The First High Criminal Court yesterday opened the trial of the owner of a financial investment company, along with the company's CEO and two board members, accused of fraud, forgery, and embezzling over BD6 million from investors' funds, in addition to laundering the proceeds of these crimes.

The four defendants, who were previously released on bail, appeared in court and denied all charges.

Three lawyers announced their representation of 352 civil claimants, including lawyer Fadhel Al-Omari on behalf of 350 plaintiffs, and lawyers Sarah Atiq and another attorney representing two additional claimants.

Commitment

The Public Prosecutor, who attended the session, emphasized that the charges outlined in the referral order reflect the Public Prosecution's firm commitment to combating crimes that threaten the national economy and the investment sector—one of Bahrain's key economic pillars.

He affirmed that the prosecution exercises its full legal authority to address money laundering, embezzlement, and fraud in the private sector due to their harmful impact on society.

He noted that the case involves several interconnected crimes carried out as part of a well-organized criminal scheme, with each defendant playing a defined role for personal gain.

Pleadings

The prosecution will elaborate on its arguments in future pleadings, supported by what it described as conclusive testimonial and material evidence.



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It confirmed reliance on the referral order and applicable laws to seek the maximum penalties.

Two attorneys also filed a motion seeking a media gag order,

citing concerns about public influence on the proceedings.

Hearing

The court adjourned the hearing until October 20 for the defense to present its arguments.

Earlier, the Head of the Financial Crimes and Money Laundering Prosecution stated that investigations began following a report from the National Financial Intelligence Center at the Ministry of Interior.

The report alleged that the company owner had defrauded investors, embezzled their funds using forged documents, and laundered the illicit proceeds.

Actions

Investigations revealed that the CEO and two board members facilitated the owner's actions within their areas of responsibility, enabling the embezzlement

of investor funds through fictitious transactions.

According to the report, the company owner engaged in suspicious financial activities, including issuing fake checks, making unjustified withdrawals and deposits, and recording unexplained payments not backed by contracts.

The findings indicated that he unlawfully appropriated investors' funds, prompting the Public Prosecution to initiate a comprehensive probe.

Fictitious deals

The investigation determined that the main defendant exploited his authority to defraud investors by promoting fictitious business deals using forged commercial records.

He falsely claimed that certain entities had applied for financial funding.

Road projects on track



His Excellency Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works, conducted a field visit to review progress on the flyover project linking Shaikh Isa bin Salman Causeway to Avenue 105 in the Busaiteen area, as part of the ministry's efforts to enhance traffic flow and improve infrastructure between the Muharraq and Capital Governorates. The visit was attended by Shaikh Mishaal bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary at the Ministry of Works, and Ahmed Sami Al Tajer, Assistant Undersecretary for Roads at the Ministry of Works. Al Hawaj was briefed on the latest project updates, noting that it includes the construction of a two-lane flyover in each direction to carry traffic from Manama via the Shaikh Isa bin Salman Causeway to the Muharraq Ring Road through Avenue 105 in Busaiteen, as well as traffic from the Muharraq Ring Road towards Muharraq city.

Bahrain gears up for World Diabetes Day 2025 event

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Preparations are underway to organize the World Diabetes Day 2025 event under the theme "Diabetes and Quality of Life," to be held from November 13 to 15 at Seef Mall-Manama.

The initiative is part of the ongoing cooperation between the Royal Medical Services and the Bahrain Diabetes Society, under the directives of His Excellency Lieutenant General Dr. Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council of Health and Chairman of the Board of the Bahrain Diabetes Society, and His Excellency Brigadier General Dr. Shaikh Fahad bin Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Commander of the Royal Medical Services.

'Hawar Circle' to redefine future of global arbitration

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The Council for International Dispute Resolution of the Kingdom of Bahrain led the inaugural "Hawar Circle" on the Hawar Islands, Bahrain, from 6 to 8 October 2025.

It brings together 14 leading arbitration figures representing jurisdictions including London, Singapore, Paris, Nigeria, India, and Hong Kong, to revisit and develop core principles for the field.

The focus of the gathering is to reflect on and renew the foundational standards of arbitration, drawing from the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIARB) London Centenary Principles.

The Hawar Circle examines practical challenges, and shares comparative experiences.

Non-Oil Sectors Power Growth

Professional and technical activities lead expansion

- Economy grows 2.5% in Q2
- Non-oil GDP up 3.5%
- Diversification efforts gain strength

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Bahrain's economy achieved a 2.5 percent real growth rate in the second quarter of 2025, according to preliminary figures released by the Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA). At current prices, the economy expanded by 2.3 percent compared to the same period of the previous year.

The data reflects the Kingdom's continued economic momentum, supported by the strong performance of non-oil sectors, which recorded a 3.5 percent increase at constant prices and 5.3 percent at current prices for the quarter. The IGA noted that this outcome underscores the ongoing national efforts to diversify income sources and strengthen the contribution of non-oil activities to Bahrain's



overall growth.

Meanwhile, oil GDP registered a 2.6 percent decline at constant prices and a 14.2 percent decrease at current prices, mainly due to lower global oil prices

and reduced production volumes.

Among individual sectors, professional, scientific, and technical activities posted the highest growth at 12 percent,



Non-oil activities now account for most of Bahrain's GDP, reflecting steady progress toward economic diversification.

followed by wholesale and retail trade at 6.7 percent and real estate activities at 4.7 percent, all at constant prices.

At current prices, professional, scientific, and technical activities continued to lead with 12.7 percent growth, while information and communication activities grew by 10.9 percent and accommodation and food services by 10.4 percent.

These results highlight the sustained expansion of Bahrain's non-oil economy and demonstrate the country's progress in achieving a balanced, diversified, and competitive growth model across key sectors.



'Committed' hygiene awareness campaign

The Southern Municipality has continued its "Committed" awareness campaign, which for the first time targets shop owners and employees to promote adherence to public hygiene standards in markets and commercial areas. The campaign aligns with the municipality's strategic goal, "Our Environment... Our Responsibility," and is being implemented in cooperation with the Southern Municipal Council. As part of the initiative, more than 500 multilingual awareness posters have been displayed on shop facades across various commercial streets, helping to convey the campaign's message to both Arabic and non-Arabic speakers.