

BD36 million in total fines issued in major money laundering operation

● **Five officials sentenced to five years in jail each and given \$1 million fines apiece; while the four banks involved were also fined \$1 million each**

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A total of BD36 million in fines was issued yesterday by the High Criminal Court against four banks and five officials in-

involved in a massive money laundering operation.

Chief Prosecutor Mohamed Jamal Sultan said yesterday that the verdicts were issued in five new cases involving five officials from Bahrain-based Future Bank, as well as three Iranian banks, reported our sister paper Al Ayam.

Fund transfers made by the banks amounting to around \$1 million was also ordered to be confiscated.

The court ruled in each case to convict all of the accused, and to punish the officials of Future

Bank with a prison sentence of five years apiece while fining them the amount of \$1 million each.

In addition to this, each of the banks involved have also been fined \$1 million.

Previously in this case, investigations had uncovered a plan that permitted Iranian entities, including those implicated in funding terrorism or which are under international sanctions, to carry out international transactions while avoiding organisational auditing.

It had been found that Future

Thousands of international financial transactions were conducted, while providing covers for the Iranian entities there through deliberate concealment or removal of basic information, as they remitted money via the SWIFT network



Bank, which is operating in Bahrain under the supervision of Bank Melli Iran and the Export Development Bank of Iran, had

carried out thousands of international financial transactions, while providing covers for the Iranian entities there through

deliberate concealment or removal of basic information while remitting money via the SWIFT network.

The Public Prosecution here investigated the matter and referred the Future Bank officials and the other implicated banks to the court for trial, as per the anti-money laundering and combatting funding terrorism law.

Sultan added yesterday that the Public Prosecution is still continuing with its investigations with other related issues operation.

Northern Governorate projects discussed



The Northern Governor chairs the meeting

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Northern Governor Ali bin Al Shaikh Al Asfour chaired a remote meeting in which projects related to the governorate were discussed.

In attendance were Deputy Governor Brig Khalid bin Rabia Sinan Al Dossary, members of the Council of Representatives, personnel from government agencies, and a number of governorate officials.

The Northern Governor praised the efforts made by Team Bahrain, led by His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, to address the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

He praised the constructive cooperation between the governorate and government agencies in implementing the

directives of the Interior Minister, which includes setting up a mechanism to reduce the density of expatriate labourers in their accommodations.

He briefed the council on these measures and discussed ways to support the ongoing efforts, such as providing information related to real estate owners before taking administrative and legal measures that guarantee social distancing in overcrowded housing.

The council also discussed steps taken by the governorate in preparation for its accreditation in the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities programme.

The infrastructure was reviewed in A'ali and the Ramli village project, especially with regard to sanitation, where it was noted that the percentage of sewage connection in A'ali exceeds 85 per cent.

The Northern Governor pointed to the projects that are being pursued in A'ali, through communicating with the people, forming committees in partnership with civil society, and analysing the health and social situation, in addition to continuous evaluation of ways to preserve the pottery industry and develop furnaces for burning pottery work.

An initiative was also discussed to provide sterilisation equipment to families in A'ali, within the promotion of precautionary and preventive measures and spreading health awareness.

The issue of infrastructure availability was also reviewed for the Salmabad industrial area.

Man submits fake certification gets three years' jail

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A man who presented fake certificates to the Education Ministry for attestation was sentenced to three years in jail yesterday by the High Criminal Court.

This was confirmed in a press statement by the Public Prosecution's Southern Governorate chief prosecutor Shaikh Abdullah bin Abdulrahman Al Khalifa.

Shaikh Abdullah said the Public Prosecution had received a notification from the Education Ministry, reporting that the defendant had submitted forged academic certificates for attestation.

The chief prosecutor explained that one of the certificates was claimed to be issued from a university in an Arab country, while the second certificate, a secondary education certificate, was claimed to be issued by another country.

"The Public Prosecution launched a probe into the case and heard the testimony of the employees at the Ministry's foreign certificates' attestation department; the investigation

“**The investigation revealed that the Ministry's claims are correct and that the defendant had forged both certificates with the assistance of an Arab accomplice**

PUBLIC PROSECUTION'S SOUTHERN GOVERNORATE CHIEF PROSECUTOR SHAIKH ABDULLAH BIN ABDULRAHMAN AL KHALIFA

revealed that the Ministry's claims are correct and that the defendant had forged both certificates with the assistance of an Arab accomplice," Shaikh Abdullah mentioned in the statement.

He also said that the defendant was interrogated and he confessed to counterfeiting the certificates and knowingly submitting it to the Education Ministry for attestation.

Shaikh Abdullah added: "The man was referred to the High Criminal Court for trial and the court issued the above-mentioned verdict in the case."

Shrimping ban violators arrested

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Three men have been arrested for violating the shrimping ban, the Ministry of Interior announced last night.

This follows the report of the Coast Guard Commander, who said that land back-up patrols have detained the individuals in separate cases.

Different quantities of shrimps were seized from them, said the Ministry.

Legal proceedings have been taken to refer the cases to the Public Prosecution.

The officials indicated that the municipality formed a working group that tours the fish markets in the governorate on a daily basis to ensure the implementation of the decision as well as to control the violators and transfer them to the competent authorities to take legal measures towards them.

Officials noted that the aim of the inspection campaigns was to make sure all fish-sellers adhere to the official decision that has been issued to ban fishing and selling of shrimps caught in the territorial waters of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the season.

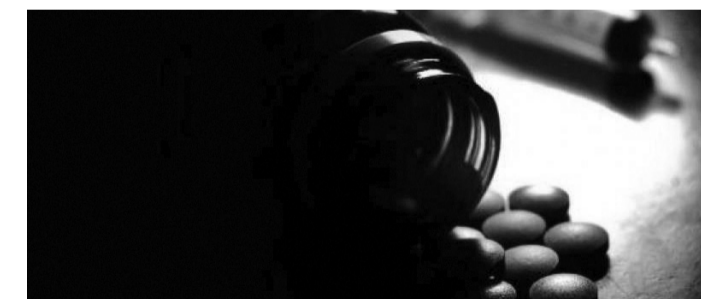
Bahraini man sentenced, Thai sisters deported in narcotics case

● **Bahraini drug dealer receives five-year sentence and BD3,000 fine; Thai women spared from jail time for cooperation with police, but ordered to be permanently deported**

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The High Criminal Court on Tuesday announced its final verdict in a case involving a Bahraini man and two Thai sisters, who together formed a gang to smuggle drugs into the Kingdom and sell them here.

The Bahraini man was sentenced to five years of imprisonment and was fined BD3,000. The court spared the Thai women from spending time in jail, considering their cooperation with the police, resulting in the



Representational image courtesy Reuters

arrest of the drug dealer. However, the sisters were ordered to be permanently deported.

The case was revealed in March this year, when one of the

sisters was caught with quantities of narcotic substance in her possession while entering Bahrain coming from Thailand through Bahrain International

Airport. Court files showed that customs officers at the airport suspected the woman and sent her for an intensified inspection. There, X-rays showed that several bags of narcotics were hidden in electronic devices, such as massage machines, hairdryers and headsets.

The woman confessed to the crime on the spot and agreed to cooperate with the police and lead them to her accomplices, who were her sister and the Bahraini defendant.

A team of policewomen accompanied the woman to arrest her sister, who arrived at the

airport to pick her up.

After confronting her with the crime and collected evidence, the sister also confessed and agreed to cooperate with the police.

The sisters told them police that their Bahraini co-defendant would contact certain individuals in Thailand to buy methamphetamine and amphetamine from them. One of the Thai women's missions was to collect the drugs and traffic it into Bahrain.

The other Thai woman would receive the electronic devices from her sister and deliver it to the Bahraini man, who takes the substance out of the devices, and then cuts, weighs, distributes and sells them to customers here. The sisters led the police to their Bahraini accomplice and they all stood trial before the High Criminal Court for the charges of trafficking narcotics into the Kingdom, as well as illegal possession and peddling drugs.



Methamphetamine and amphetamine are central nervous system stimulants that are both highly addictive. Methamphetamine, also known as meth or speed, among other names, is mainly used as a recreational drug; while amphetamine, which is a medication for certain conditions, can be used as an athletic performance enhancer and cognitive enhancer, and recreationally as an aphrodisiac and euphoriant