

Company official on trial after fatal 25-metre fall of Asian worker

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has begun hearing the case of an Asian company official accused of causing the death of a fellow Asian worker, who fell from a height of approximately 25 meters at a construction site. During the hearing, the defendant appeared in court and denied all charges brought against him. The court scheduled the next session for November 16 to hear the defense, after granting the defendant's lawyer access to the case files.

Negligence

According to the Public Prosecution, the incident occurred on May 6, 2024, when the defendant, through professional negligence, failed to comply with safety standards and occupational regulations, leading to the fatal fall. Prosecutors charged the defendant with causing death by negligence, citing multiple safety violations, including the failure to provide or properly secure scaffolding, neglecting to ensure fall protection systems were in place, and allowing work at height without adequate safety measures.

# ‘BD700 minimum wage, zero unemployment’

Union conference spotlights decent work, fair pay, and Bahrainisation efforts

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

Unions called for a BD700 minimum wage and a push to bring unemployment to zero as the General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions opened a two-day conference on decent work and social development.

The event is held in co-operation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Building and Wood Workers' International, with His Excellency Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, Minister of Legal Affairs and Acting Minister of Labour, in attendance. In opening remarks, Secretary-General Abdulqader Al Shehabi linked the agenda to the Second World Summit for Social Development in Qatar, which aims to end poverty, provide decent work for all and advance social inclusion. He said these aims rest on security, peace and respect for human rights and basic freedoms, and urged regular talks between employers and workers to handle rapid shifts in production

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- CARLOS ANTONIO, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE BUILDING AND WOOD WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL

The federation's plan sets out a BD700 minimum wage and zero unemployment through local hiring (Bahrainisation) to serve employers, workers and government.

and automation.

Progress

Al Shehabi said Bahrain shows formal progress yet a real setback in the labour market, pointing to higher unemployment, rising public debt and climbing living costs. He said a joined-up plan is needed, adding that unions help keep workplaces steady and can bring in investment, while rising union membership shows stronger awareness of organised



labour's role in the economy. The federation's plan sets out a BD700 minimum wage and zero unemployment through local hiring (Bahrainisation) to serve employers, workers and government.

Proud

Friedrich Ebert Foundation representative Yassine Al-Hannashi said the group backs labour and rights work worldwide and is proud to work with the Bahrain federation.



From left, Abdulqader Al Shehabi, H.E. Yousif bin Abdulhussain Khalaf, and First Deputy Speaker AbdulNabi Salman

He called decent work a basic human right and said it is needed for growth and fairer outcomes. Al-Hannashi added that the conference opens a frank discussion among unions, government and civil society at a time that calls for renewed resolve to keep talking.

Development

Carlos Antonio, Assistant Secretary-General of the Building and Wood Workers' Interna-

tional, said development is a wide brief that unions approach through social justice. He pointed to rising global joblessness and said more than one billion people live below the poverty line, about 10 per cent of the world's population. Antonio urged joint effort towards the Sustainable Development Goals and bringing younger people into the cause, and ended by urging attention to climate justice in the Middle East, especially in construction.

# Shura approves Makkah anti-corruption convention

Mohammed Darwish  
TDT | Manama

The Shura Council yesterday agreed, on an urgent basis, to a draft law ratifying the Makkah Convention on anti-corruption cooperation among member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and sent it to the Speaker to refer to the Prime Minister before submission to His Majesty the King. The convention is built to speed up cooperation between law-enforcement bodies through fast exchanges of information and enquiries, to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute covered crimes, and to recover illicit proceeds. Committee rapporteur Hamad Al Nuaimi said: "Ratification shows Bahrain's will to fight corruption and keeps the national legal framework in line with the Constitution and existing

laws, and with the aims of Vision 2030." He added: "It widens technical help, training and the sharing of skills and experience among OIC states, which will raise the capacity of national anti-corruption bodies." Shura member Ejla Bubshait supported the approach but asked: "Has the convention set out the reasons that justify the exchange of information without a prior formal request, and has it clarified which types of information would not require one?" Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee head Dr Ali Al Rumaihi said: "The convention, initiated by the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, fits with related international agreements. We heard from the Interior, Foreign Affairs and Justice ministries, and we recommend approval."



Shura session in progress

On the clause in question he said: "The text allows information-sharing without a prior formal request; it does not compel it. The aim is to speed up procedures." Shura member Shaikh Ahmed

Al Khalifa said: "Corruption affects commercial and government bodies in many countries. We need constant audit work, above all on finances. Some people exploit their posts for personal gain at the public's ex-

pense. That harms performance and calls for stronger oversight and accountability." Shura member Dr Ali Al Haddad said: "The convention aligns with constitutional principles that uphold justice and



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“The convention fits with related international agreements.”

- DR ALI AL RUMAIHI, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE HEAD

protect public money. Bahrain's accession builds on its diplomatic efforts to curb corruption.”

Remembrance Day

The British Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain yesterday commemorated Remembrance Day, an annual observance honouring military and civilian victims who lost their lives in past and present wars and conflicts. The ceremony, held in the embassy's garden in Manama, was attended by officials, diplomats, students, religious leaders, members of the armed forces, and representatives of the diplomatic and expatriate communities.

# Extra housing land sought for Muharraq's Sixth Constituency

Mohammed Darwish  
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Additional land for housing in Muharraq's Sixth Constituency is being sought to cut waiting times that in many cases have stretched to 18 to 20 years and to keep families close to their communities. A parliamentary proposal urges the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning to set



MP Dr Hesham Al Ashiri  
aside more state land for local projects so residents can secure

lasting housing solutions without moving away from their social and geographic ties. According to the explanatory memo, the constituency has seen a sharp rise in unfulfilled applications in recent years, particularly under the "Land and Loan" programme. The long delay has weighed on families and runs against national aims to support household stability and fair chances for citizens.