

# Civil society faces legal action 'over unpaid power, water bills'

Al Hekma Society offers services to retired Bahrainis from both public and private sectors

TDT | Manama

A civil society that offers services to retirees in Bahrain is now facing legal action for not paying its electricity and water bills, which has piled up to around BD70,000, Tribune has learnt.

Sources confirmed that Al Hekma Retired Society, located in Buhair-Riffa, owes the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) arrears of BD67,000 in unpaid electricity and water bills issued between the years 2008 and 2014.

The matter has been referred to the courts as the society's administration pleaded that the accumulated amount is a result

**67,000**

Bahraini dinars in arrears now needed to be settled by the society with EWA.

of a misunderstanding and that the society did not deliberately ignore the bills.

According to the sources, the society's administration was promised to be exempted from paying for the supply of electricity and water services, as per correspondence with the concerned authorities before the establishment of the society's current headquarters back in 2008.

Apparently, the issue came as a result of an unintentional mistake as informed by the sources, who explained that the society's

electricity meter was fixed inside the governmental electricity control room that is placed within the society's premises.

The meter, which was allegedly not acknowledged by the society as it believed that it was exempted from paying for the services, has been adding units as the society consumed water and electricity during the last six years.

Additionally, the society claimed that it didn't receive any bills throughout that period and that it only discovered the matter in September 2014.



The society is now required to pay the amount. However, it is approaching the court.

SOURCES

A new meter has been fixed in the society, which is now committed to paying the monthly bills since January 1, 2015.

Established in 1989, Al Hekma Retired Society is registered with the Labour and Social Development Ministry as a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) that offers its services to retired Bahrainis of both genders.

The society has today around 5,000 members that consist of retired consultants, experts and directors who served in both the private and public sectors.

The sources said that the society is now required to pay the amount, adding that the issue has been referred to the court, which is still studying the case.

## Expatriate cultural association celebrates founder's birth anniversary



Mr Gopi honours Mr Jagadish, Mr Nair and Mr Baburajan at the event in the presence of KSCA members and dignitaries.



TDT | Manama

Kerala Social and Cultural Association (KSCA) celebrated the 142nd birth anniversary of its founder leader and social reformer Mannathu Padmanabhan.

More than 3,000 people at-

tended this celebration named "Hariharalayam" held at Indian School Bahrain.

Member of Parliament and popular Indian film actor Suresh Gopi inaugurated the function.

KSCA President Pambavasan Nair presided over the function and spoke about the contributions made by the charismatic

leader towards the community and the society.

General Secretary Santhosh Kumar presented the welcome speech.

The association felicitated three eminent personalities from different fields. Mannam Award was presented to the renowned poet, lyricist and scholar

Ramesan Nair.

He has written lyrics for more than 400 film songs and 2,000 devotional songs. He has translated many Tamil literature to Malayalam. He was bestowed with more than 50 awards and accolades including the prestigious Kendra Sahithya Academy Award 2018.

A jury of five members with Anil Kumar as the Chairman unanimously selected Ramesan Nair as the Mannam Awardee.

Star Icon Award was presented to Jagadish Kumar, a versatile Indian film actor, screenwriter and judge of many popular television programmes for his

outstanding contributions to the Indian Cinema.

Pravasi Ratna award for business excellence was presented to K G Baburajan, an eminent businessman in Bahrain and Qatar. He is the Chairman and Managing Director of BKG Holdings and Qatar Engineering Laboratories.

## Terror convict loses appeal

TDT | Manama

The High Appeals Court has upheld the conviction of a man tried in connection with joining the terrorist organisation February 14 Coalition.

The defendant earlier stood before the High Criminal Court alongside four others, two of whom received 15 years in prison each, while he received five years behind bars with two others.

All of the defendants' Bahraini nationality was revoked because they were tried on terrorism-related charges.

According to court files, the accused men were active between 2012 and 2014 and the second defendant was financing their activities.

He said to have injected

**The second defendant was receiving orders from terrorist figures living outside Bahrain and he was implementing plans accordingly.**

PROSECUTORS

BD140,000 to fund executing their terrorist plans and he was helped by his four co-defendants, including the appellant.

Prosecutors said that the second defendant was receiving orders from terrorist figures living outside Bahrain. And he was implementing the plans he was receiving.

## Online transactions worth BD120m recorded last year

TDT | Manama

Financial transactions worth BD120 million were carried out electronically through government smartphone applications in 2018, Information and eGovernment Authority (IGA) recently revealed.

According to the latest statistics released by the authority, 214,000 financial transactions were made through the apps out of a total of 1.3 million other transactions.

The figures also showed a growth in the amounts paid through the eGovernment National Portal (www.bahrain.bh) and other electronic portals of different government bodies by BD45 million in comparison to 2017, which witnessed around BD75 million worth online financial transactions.

The authority revealed that electronic financial transactions worth BD28.6 million was made through the eGovernment National Portal alone in

**96,000**

electronic transactions were recorded in October, according to IGA.

the months of October (BD9m), November (BD9.6m) and De-

cember (BD10m).

The highest number of financial transactions was recorded in October with more than 96,000 transactions, while 88,000 and 90,000 transactions were recorded in November and December, respectively.

The month of October also recorded the highest number of visits to the eGovernment National Portal with 539,000 visits, while 460,000 visits to the site were recorded in November and 503,000 visits in December.