

# Makeup Parcel Masks Menace

Customs bust foils global traffickers

- Parcel hid over 1kg marijuana
- Makeup shipment from U.S.
- Offender jailed, fined, deported

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

Bahrain's customs and law enforcement officers have intercepted a drug trafficking attempt concealed in an unlikely package, a make-up shipment from the United States, leading to the dismantling of a key link in an international smuggling network. The court sentenced an Asian man working as a delivery agent for a well-known company to 15 years in prison, a BD5,000 fine, confiscation of the seized items, and deportation. His arrest followed the seizure of a suspicious parcel at Bahrain Airport on April 5, 2025. Inside, officials found three bags of marijuana weighing 1.016 kg, hidden among clothes. Laboratory analysis confirmed the substance was marijuana.

**Organised network**

Investigations revealed the man's role in an organised criminal network that smuggled



Bahrain's customs officers scan and inspect thousands of incoming parcels daily, a practice that has intercepted multiple contraband attempts each year.

gled drugs through postal shipments. His responsibility was to receive parcels and deliver them to other members in exchange for payment.

Authorities also discovered a video on his phone showing a cigar next to a bag containing a green substance, further linking him to the illicit trade.

**Firm deterrent**

The case underscores Bahrain's readiness to act swiftly against narcotics trafficking, no matter how elaborate the concealment method.

# Court Jails Belly Dancers' Abusers

Entertainment sector exploitation exposed

- Trio found guilty
- Belly dancers forced into labor
- Harsh penalties imposed

Rehab Mohammad  
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has handed down a landmark ruling in a human trafficking case involving two young Arab women brought to Bahrain to work as belly dancers, sentencing three defendants to prison, imposing fines, and ordering their deportation after serving their terms. The court sentenced the first defendant, an Arab businesswoman, to three years in prison and a fine of BD2,000, while the second and third defendants, both Asians, received one year each and identical fines. All three were ordered to cover the victims' repatriation costs and will be permanently deported upon release. According to the Public Prosecution, the defendants traf-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

ficked the two belly dancers by receiving, transporting, and sheltering them in circumstances where their consent was not valid, exploiting them in forced labour. They were made to work long hours without pay or days off, in unsuitable conditions, and forced to entertain customers under threat and close monitoring.

**Victims' ordeal**

Testimonies revealed the victims, aged 21 and 22, had been recruited to work at a nightclub owned by the first defendant.

Upon arrival, their passports were confiscated, and they were subjected to excessive work hours, salary deductions for makeup, and forced consumption of alcohol. They were locked in a hotel room by the second and third defendants, following instructions from the first defendant.

A third witness, an Arab man in the entertainment industry, confirmed he had brought the belly dancers to Bahrain at the businesswoman's request. He later learned they were working without pay and being mistreat-



In Bahrain, convicted human traffickers face both prison terms and permanent deportation.

ed, prompting him to advise one victim to file a police complaint.

**Strong stance**

An Interior Ministry officer testified that investigations showed the victims were denied their wages and tips, fined for requesting time off, and physically prevented from leaving. The case highlights the judiciary's commitment to punishing offenders and protecting vulnerable workers and sends a clear deterrent message to exploiters.

# Coast Guard seizes illegal shrimp boat

- Four caught using banned 'koffa' nets

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The Coast Guard patrols seized a boat carrying four Asian individuals in possession of a quantity of shrimp caught using banned bottom trawling nets ("koffa") in the Khor Fasht area. It was part of ongoing efforts to combat maritime violations and ensure that sailors and fishermen comply with laws and regulations. The Coast Guard stated that the necessary legal procedures were taken against the violators in preparation for referring the



Coast Guard

case to the Public Prosecution. The Coast Guard urged seagoers to comply with the instructions of maritime patrols when requested to stop for inspection,

to adhere to decisions banning fishing and the use of illegal tools, and to follow procedures on reducing overfishing, illegal, and unregulated fishing.

# Stage set for fourth Middle East Sustainability Forum

- Two-day event to be held in Bahrain on Jan. 27-28, 2026

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The Middle East Sustainability Forum will host its fourth edition on January 27-28, 2026, at the Four Seasons Hotel Bahrain Bay, under the

theme "Fostering Consensus, Innovation, and Implementation for the Energy and Climate Transformation." The event, supported by the Supreme Council for the Environment, will be attended by His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak bin Daina, Minister of Oil and Environment and Special Envoy for Climate Affairs. Organizers expect more than 400 senior business leaders and

sustainability experts from across the region and beyond. Goals The two-day program will feature keynote addresses, panel sessions, and interactive discussions aimed at advancing the region's carbon neutrality goals. Over 50 speakers from the Middle East and North Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas will share strategies and solutions.



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