

Banker sentenced for embezzling clients' funds

● Five years behind bars, fined BD10,000

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has sentenced a 30-year-old Bahraini bank employee to five years in prison, fined him BD10,000, and ordered repayment of BD136,575.422 after convicting him of embezzling clients' funds by exploiting his job privileges and targeting elderly customers.

Court records indicate that the case began when a police captain received information about an individual attempting to open bank accounts in the names of three people using deceptive methods.

Investigations revealed that the suspect, later identified as the defendant, had successfully opened one of the accounts, with surveillance footage capturing him at the same bank branch.

Farm

In one instance, the account-opening process took place at a farm, where both audio recordings and partial footage of the suspect's vehicle were obtained.

Authorities subsequently traced BD60,000 belonging to one of the victims.

The investigation further showed that the defendant had used voice-changing software to impersonate clients and complete account-opening procedures remotely. The software was discovered on his mobile phone.

Most of the victims were elderly and unfamiliar with digital banking or financial procedures, making them particularly vulnerable to the fraud.

Safety check

Urgent MPs' proposal for schools to contact parents when child misses class

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Urgent proposal before Parliament would require the Ministry of Education to make every kindergarten and all public and private schools contact parents immediately when a child is absent.

It is filed under Article 68 of the Constitution and Article 128 of the Council of Representatives' Rules of Procedure.

The request follows a case reported on Monday in which a four-and-a-half-year-old boy, Hassan Ali Al Mahari, died after being left inside a vehicle that took children to a kindergarten in the Damistan housing area.

Death

The Interior Ministry said Northern Governorate Police received a report of a child's death inside a vehicle not licensed to carry pupils; the 40-year-old driver was detained and the Public Prosecution notified.

A relative said the boy board-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

The proposal states that same-day contact with guardians on non-attendance would improve safety and keep parents informed during the school day.

ed the vehicle in the morning but fell asleep en route.

After dropping the children and locking the doors, the driver did not realise he was still inside.

Unconscious

Later, when his absence was

queried, she returned to the vehicle, found him unconscious and called an ambulance.

He was taken to the Bahrain Defence Force Hospital and pronounced dead due to severe heat stress.

The proposal states that same-day contact with guard-



MP Abdulhakeem Al Sheno

ians on non-attendance would improve safety and keep parents informed during the school day.

Direct contact

An explanatory note says the measure aims to prevent similar cases by making direct contact with parents a standing duty whenever a pupil does not arrive.

Sponsors are MPs Abdulhakeem Al Sheno, Jameel Mulla Hasan, Hesham Al Awadhi, Eman Shuwaiter and Dr Mar- yam Al Dhaen.

Further details on school procedures and any follow-up by the education authorities are expected when Parliament considers the request.

'Dirty money'



● Guilty of running prostitution and crime operations

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The First High Criminal Court has convicted a general manager and two Asian investors of laundering money obtained from prostitution-related crimes.

The court sentenced each of the three defendants to five years in prison and fined them BD300,000 each.

It also ordered the confiscation of BD138,747.737 in funds and assets belonging to the convicted individuals and a deceased accomplice, in addition to their permanent deportation from Bahrain following the completion of their sentences.

According to the Public Prosecution, the defendants, along with a deceased accomplice, laundered BD138,747.737 derived from prostitution by conducting financial transactions intended to conceal the illicit source of the funds and make them appear legitimate.

A First Lieutenant at the National Financial Intelligence Center testified that confidential investigations, launched after the Public Prosecution began probing prostitution-related offenses, revealed suspicious financial activities.

Upon obtaining authorization to review the defendants' bank accounts, authorities discovered that the trio had operated a prostitution network through several massage parlors rented across the Kingdom.

Education Minister visits schools

His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Mubarak Juma, Minister of Education, visited Sitra Secondary Girls School, Manama Secondary Girls School in the Second Educational Zone, and Arad Primary Boys School in the Fourth Educational Zone. During his visits, Dr. Juma met with school principals, teaching and administrative staff, and students from various grade levels. He also inspected classrooms and facilities to ensure that educational operations were proceeding according to plan. The Minister held discussions with school administrations on ways to support the teaching process and address challenges hindering effective learning.



Government allocates BD1.2m budget for autism centres

TDT | Manama

The government told Parliament it is not shirking autism support, pointing to a fixed BD1.2 million line for autism centres and saying a cluster of overlapping proposals from MPs shows weak coordination among members.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, His Excellency Ghanim Al Buainain, said the government cannot step away from duties set

in the Constitution, just as Parliament cannot set aside its own.

Proposals

He said four or five similar proposals had been lodged to set up centres in the Southern, Northern, Capital and Central governorates, and that this duplication points to poor planning between sponsors.

MP Jalal Kadhem made the same point on the floor, noting that repeated requests suggest

“The BD1.2m allocation for autism centres is already in the state budget passed by Parliament and is carried each year as a standing line.”

- H.E. GHANIM AL BUAINAIN, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS



there had been no coordination to begin with.

Al Buainain said the BD1.2m allocation for autism centres is already in the state budget passed by Parliament and is carried each year as a standing line.

Approach

He added that the Ministry of Education aims to place pupils with disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum, in mainstream schools where

their needs allow, saying this approach is better than separating them into stand-alone institutions that may mark them out from their peers.

He said the government acts under the Social Insurance Law, which covers people with disabilities including those on the spectrum, and under a separate law on the rights of people with disabilities, meaning support is grounded in two statutes in force.

MPs file bid for debate on autism health, social and school support

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

MPs have filed a request for a general discussion to set out the government's policy on programmes and initiatives for people on the autism spectrum, the means to improve the health, social and educational services they receive, and ways to strengthen their place in the community, a move spearheaded

by MP Hassan Ibrahim.

The request is lodged under Article 68(b) of the Constitution and Articles 170–174 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, and asks that it be put to a vote with MP Hassan Ibrahim Hassan given priority to speak.

The paper seeks clear data on how many people in Bahrain are on the spectrum, broken down by recognised levels, and a full account of the Ministry of



MP Hassan Ibrahim

Health's diagnostic path from first concern through to confirmation.

It asks which levels the ministry uses in its classifications and why these are not recorded on the national Smart Card, where 'severe intellectual disability' appears instead.

It also asks if there are nationwide schemes for early screening and intervention and how widely they are available at pri-

mary health centres.

On social support, the request asks the Ministry of Social Development to set out its programmes for people on the spectrum, the rules for paying the disability allowance, the categories covered and the value of the benefit.

It asks for the criteria used to judge eligibility for financial and social support, and for an account of oversight of public

and private rehabilitation centres that serve children on the spectrum, including how service quality and performance are assessed.

It also asks for plans to expand or upgrade state specialist centres and for a progress update on the near-opening Comprehensive Disability Complex, including the services planned and the readiness of facilities and staff.