

Secrets of Stones

From 130-Year-Old Ring to Bahrain's Gemstone Legacy

- Rare stones with included fossils
- Strong demand in Bahrain for pearls, agate, and turquoise
- Belief that gemstones carry energy



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A 130-year-old family heirloom has shaped the life of Hussein Al Daraji, owner of Rooh Al Ahgar Jewelry in Manama's Gold Souq, who has spent more than 35 years in the world of gemstones.

The journey began in childhood when he received an agate ring passed down through generations—from his grandfather to his father and then to him. The ring, he said, opened the door to a lifelong fascination with stones, history, and heritage.

"My passion for gemstones began when I was young and saw my father caring for stones," Al Daraji said. "The first experience I remember clearly was when he gave me an old ring inherited from his father. From that moment, I realized every stone carries a story and a soul."

He recalled being told that the ring contained a stone believed in traditional lore to stop bleeding when placed on a wound. The stone, known as bloodstone or heliotrope, has been associated with ancient beliefs across various cultures, including Roman traditions where it was linked to healing practices in folk medicine.

In an exclusive interview, Al Daraji also shared rare examples from his career, including a natural star ruby weighing more

Every stone has its own energy and vibration, many visitors feel a positive change when they choose the right stone

- HUSSEIN AL DARAJI, OWNER OF ROOH AL AHGAR JEWELRY

than 2.5 kilograms. After cutting and polishing, the stone was valued at around BD 35,000. He noted that similar high-quality stones, depending on rarity and size, have previously reached values in the millions globally.

Over the years, what began as childhood curiosity developed into a full profession, eventually leading him to establish Rooh Al Ahgar in the Manama Gold Souq.

Criteria

He explained that gemstone valuation follows established criteria known as the "4Cs"—colour, clarity, cut, and carat weight.

Among the rarest pieces he has encountered, he highlighted stones containing fossil inclusions, including one with a fossilised insect preserved for millions of years, describing it as both a scientific and aesthetic rarity.

In Bahrain, he said, customers are particularly drawn to



A natural star ruby weighing more than 2.5 kilograms, and cost more than BD35,000



A 130-year-old agate

natural pearls as well as stones like agate and turquoise, which are often associated with purity, calmness, and protection.

From a single inherited ring to a lifelong career, Al Daraji's

journey reflects a deep connection between heritage, belief, and craftsmanship—one that continues to evolve with every stone that passes through his hands.

Rejections, Disputes and Delays Surface



There is no clear upward trend in bankruptcy cases

- DR HISHAM AL ASHIRI, MP



This mix-up misleads the public

- ZAINAB ABDULAMEER, MP

● Courts Reject Most Bankruptcy Filings

● MPs Clash Over Rent Law Mix-Up

● New System Proposed for Service Delays



People deserve answers, not delays

- DR MUNEEER SEROOR, MP

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Most Bankruptcy Cases in Bahrain Rejected Since 2023

Most bankruptcy and re-organisation cases filed in Bahrain since the start of 2023 have been dismissed, according to the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf, which is currently drafting amendments to the law.

In a written response to MP Hisham Al Ashiri, the ministry revealed that 48 out of 60 cases already ruled on by courts were rejected or dismissed.

The remaining cases ended in various outcomes, including settlements, withdrawals, closure of proceedings, or rulings that claims could not be heard.

A further 16 cases are still under review by the courts, while two have been suspended.

The data covers the period from early 2023 to the end of the first quarter of 2026.

The ministry said the cases were linked to different financial and administrative conditions faced by individual businesses.

It added that a joint study with the Economic Development Board found that bankruptcy rates in Bahrain remain relatively low compared to other countries, with no clear upward trend despite global economic pressures.

Confusion Over Rent Law and Housing Proposal

Confusion emerged in Parliament over a proposed amendment to Bahrain's rent law and a separate issue concerning bachelors' housing.

MP Zainab Abdulaameer said the Muharraq Municipal Council had mixed up two different proposals and failed to provide a written response on the draft law under discussion.

She clarified that MPs were debating an amendment to Ar-



MP Mohammed Al Olaiwi, not a separate housing-related proposal submitted by MP Mohammed Al Rifai.

AbdulAmeer criticised the confusion, stating that the council's comments in the media referred to a different proposal and not the draft law discussed in Parliament. She stressed the importance of accuracy and transparency in legislative discussions.

Call for National Platform to Track Delayed Services

A proposal has been submitted in Parliament to establish a national platform to track delayed government services and projects.

MP Muneer Seroor said the initiative was prompted by repeated delays highlighted in reports by the National Audit Office.

The proposed system would monitor the progress of transactions and services, identify delays, and clarify responsibility.

It would also allow users to submit complaints and track cases where compensation may be required.

Seroor said the goal is to improve accountability and ensure that citizens receive services within a clear timeframe after meeting all requirements.

Relief Flights



The Kerala Social Forum (BKSF) and the Bahrain Malayalee Business Forum (BMBF) have jointly launched special relief charter flights to support Indian expatriates facing travel disruptions amid the ongoing Middle East crisis. The initiative, organized on April 14 and 15 at the Golden Tulip Hotel in Manama, offered a historic all-inclusive travel package priced at BD 220, covering airfare, ground transport, and meals. (By Pradeep Puravankara)

Society Praise



Members of the Bahrain India Society are seen during a recent Board meeting. They expressed deep appreciation and respect for the leadership of the Kingdom of Bahrain, commending its continued efforts in safeguarding national security, maintaining stability, and ensuring the well-being of citizens and residents. The Society also highlighted the vital role of Bahrain's security institutions—including the Bahrain Defence Force, National Guard, and Civil Defence—in preserving public safety and strengthening social cohesion. The meeting further reviewed ongoing community initiatives and discussed upcoming programmes aimed at enhancing cooperation and cultural ties between Bahraini and Indian communities, in line with the Kingdom's vision of unity, inclusiveness, and sustainable development. (By Pradeep Puravankara)