

Man jailed for drug use after trafficking charge dropped

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A man in his thirties has been cleared of dealing synthetic cannabis but sentenced to three years in prison for drug use, after a court found no firm evidence to support claims he was selling narcotics.

The High Criminal Court also fined him BD1,000 and ordered the confiscation of items recovered during the investigation.

The verdict followed submissions by lawyer Dalal Al Thawadi, who argued there was nothing in the case file to show her client had intended to sell drugs.

No transaction was witnessed, and no substances were found on him for that purpose.

The incident took place in

Juffair, where a corporal from the Drug Enforcement Division noticed the man behaving oddly and carrying a black backpack.

When the officer approached, the man dropped the bag and fled, vanishing from sight.

Inside the backpack, police found 13 plastic vials and a syringe containing a clear liquid, which later tested positive for synthetic cannabis.

Medical capsules

The bag also contained 42 medical capsules filled with pregabalin, nine more vials with methamphetamine, a black digital scale, a glass pipe and a collection of transparent plastic bags.

A warrant for his arrest was issued on 19 November 2024.

He was detained by police



Image used for illustrative purposes only

on 23 February 2025, carrying BD215 and SAR1,210 in cash.

Urine sample

Tests carried out on his urine sample showed the presence of cannabis, methamphetamine and pregabalin.

He later admitted in question-

ing that he used both cannabis and methamphetamine, which he said he bought from a Pakistani man through dead drop exchanges.

The court said it found no reason to accept the charge of drug dealing.



During questioning, the accused admitted that he used both cannabis and methamphetamine.

Synthetic cannabis

It pointed out that the synthetic cannabis found in his bag weighed 307.36 grams, including the packaging.

This quantity, the court said, did not by itself amount to proof

of intent to sell.

The scale contained no traces of any drug, and the police witness who claimed the man was involved in drug trafficking provided no supporting evidence.

The court ruled that police reports alone could not form the basis for a conviction, and that witness opinion needed to be backed by material proof.

Evidence

It added that it is for the court to decide which parts of the evidence it trusts and which it does not.

Although it dismissed the trafficking charge, the court found the man guilty of using controlled substances.

He was convicted based on his own admissions and the laboratory test results, and will serve a custodial sentence.

Weak evidence sinks parking dispute case

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A man accused of assaulting an artist and his son during a row over parking has been cleared, after judges threw out the case citing weak and muddled evidence.

The High Criminal Appeals Court upheld the lower court's finding, which pointed to gaps in the prosecution's claims and doubts that simply could not be brushed aside.

Scuffle

A key witness told investigators he saw the second defendant standing near the scuffle, trying to separate those involved.

That account was backed by the first defendant's own confession, which stated the second man hadn't thrown a punch, but had stepped in to break things up. The court said it could not ignore the doubt that clung to the case.

Doubt

The reasoning, based on Article 255 of the Criminal Procedure Law, made clear that where doubt lingers, guilt cannot be assumed.

In this case, the judges said they were far from certain and did not feel comfortable passing sentence.

The second defendant had denied the accusation from the start and maintained his position throughout. The judges found no firm ground to convict.

Dr Mohammed Al Kooheji, the lawyer representing the man, confirmed that the incident began with an argument over a parking spot.

Things escalated when the first defendant grabbed the artist, causing him to fall, then continued to punch him until bystanders stepped in.

Verdict due in child abuse case at rehabilitation centre

31 July ruling set

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A criminal court will rule on 31 July in the case of an Arab man accused of abusing several children with disabilities at a rehabilitation centre, following claims he physically and psychologically mistreated them.

The Minor Criminal Court set the date after hearing closing arguments from the defence, which called for an acquittal.

The case began with a complaint from the Ministry of Social Development after a routine inspection by judicial staff.

Severe disabilities

The accused was employed at a facility responsible for the



care of children with severe disabilities.

Prosecutors reviewed surveillance footage, interviewed the centre's director and the reporting inspector, and questioned the accused before referring the case to court.

During the latest hearing, defence lawyer Abeer Abdulrah-

man argued that the case lacked a proper legal foundation.

Reform justice

She referred to Article 40 of Bahrain's 2021 law on reform justice and child protection, which outlines the specific acts that constitute abuse. None of those, she claimed, applied to

her client.

The lawyer also challenged the complaint itself, saying it was filed by someone who lacked the required legal standing.

She said the surveillance clips, each no longer than five to twenty seconds, were recorded without proper understanding of the children's conditions.

Investigation

A defence witness had been interviewed during the investigation and denied that any abuse had occurred.

Abdulrahman described the defendant's actions as physical assistance rather than mistreatment.

Given the seriousness of the children's conditions, she argued, his conduct fell within the bounds of his job and did not amount to misconduct.

Trial over hazardous chemical storage

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A man accused of storing dangerous chemicals in breach of environmental rules has been referred to court, prosecutors said.

The case began when the Supreme Council for Environment carried out a spot check at a property in the Northern Governorate.

Inspectors found hazardous chemical waste stored on site, in a manner that failed to meet legal safety conditions.

The council lodged a complaint. The Public Prosecution opened an investigation and has since sent the case to the criminal court.

The Public Prosecution said handling such materials requires strict adherence to the law due to the risks involved. Careless storage of hazardous waste could endanger the surrounding area.

Upgrading governance systems



As part of efforts to enhance governance concepts and implement institutional principles, the Governance Team of the General Organisation for Governorates Coordination visited the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture. The visit aimed to learn about the advanced practices employed by the ministry in the area of institutional governance and to observe the operational mechanisms in place for implementing governance systems. This visit aligned with the Governance Team's initiatives to foster collaboration with various government entities, facilitate the sharing of experiences, and develop communication channels that serve the public interest and contribute to institutional integration.

Flyover slow lane set for closure

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Ministry of Works announced that as part of maintenance works of expansion joints on Umm Al Hassam flyover at Manama necessitate closure of slow lane leading left from Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Highway to Shaikh Jabeer Al Ahmed Al Subah Highway towards Sitra Area and one lane will be provided for traffic movement.

The closure will be effective at weekend from tomorrow to July 20.

All road users are requested to observe and obey the traffic rules for safety of all.