

New Zealand terror attack condemned

Manama

Renowned businessman, Akram Miknas, has condemned the terror attack on the two Christchurch mosques in New Zealand, which resulted in the death of 50 people to date.

The attack was carried out by a 28-year-old Australian man, Brenton Harris Tarrant, who opened fire on the worshippers at the mosque.

"A great responsibility is placed on all men of thought, religion, culture and even businessmen to immunise our societies from extremist terrorist ideology, which works to exclude others and eliminate diversity instead of celebrating it," said Mr Miknas.



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MR MIKNAS

The shooter refused to spare any of the mosques' visitors including his youngest victim, a three-year old child who was mercilessly killed during the attack. "This horrible terrorist act in New Zealand reassures me once again, that we must learn to live with each other and realise that our differences are blessings," he said.

"Our differences must be viewed in a positive, natural state that we must accept and rejoice, not reject and retaliate against," he stressed.

Woman gets 3 months jail for 'stealing water'

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A woman was sentenced in absentia by the Third Low Criminal Court to three months of imprisonment for "stealing" water from the main line, it was announced yesterday.

According to court files, the woman has been benefiting from water services provided by the Electricity and Water Authority (EWA) for years without paying any fees.

This surfaced when one of the authority's judicial control officers was tipped off about a violation in Isa Town.

The violation was carried out illegally by installing an extension that provided a residence with water from the main water network, without being detected by the meter.

Upon his inspection to the site, the officer discovered that the house is illegally provided by water through a three-way extension that's linked to the main water network, without passing through the water meter.

Grand event set to mark Bahrain banking strides

Kingdom now hosts 382 financial institutions with total assets nearing \$192 billion

● The celebration marks the establishment of the first bank in Bahrain.

● Bahrain has now emerged a leading banking hub in the region.

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Mohammed Zafran

A grand event will be held later this year to mark the 100 years of banking operations in the Kingdom.

Organised by the Bahrain Association of Banks (BAB), the Kingdom will hold an event in connection with the 100th anniversary of the banking sector on September 11 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa.

"The celebration marks the establishment of the first bank in Bahrain, Standard and Chartered (formerly the Oriental Bank Limited), 100 years ago, thus making



The building which hosted Oriental Bank Limited, which was the Kingdom's first bank.

Bahrain's financial and banking sector among the oldest in the region and the world," the BAB stated.

BAB's Board of Directors' chairman, Adnan Ahmed Yousif, extended thanks and appreciation

to HRH the Prime Minister for patronising the festivity, which, he said, reflects his constant



HRH the Premier

keenness on supporting the banking sector in the kingdom for many decades.

Mr Yousif underlined BAB's desire to hold a mega celebration of the event commensurate with the importance of the deep-rooted sector, in cooperation with all partners, including the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) the Economic Development Board (EDB) and Standard Chartered Bank- Bahrain, among many others related to the economic, banking and financial sectors in general.

The BAB chief stressed the importance of this event in Bahrain, which now hosts 382 financial institutions with total assets of \$192 billion, including 98 banks, 21 of which are Islamic banks.

Over 1,000 advertisements removed for violating rules

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Mohammed Zafran

Over a thousand advertisements that were in violation of rules were removed by the authorities in the first two months of this year, it is learnt.

Head of the Capital Municipal Council, Shawkiya Ibrahim Humaidan, said that 1,020 advertisements were removed during January and February of this year.

"The number of advertisements removed in the first two months of the year was 1,020 while the number of advertisements approved was 710," she said.

"The type of advertisements removed included mainly posters. Administrative



Legal actions are being taken against those who paste advertisements on walls violating laws.

and legal actions are being taken against the violators and rigorous inspections will continue to find any violations in the future," she said.

According to residents in the area, the posters take away the comeliness of the city. "Illegal advertisements have become a common sight. It makes the city look dirty, I am glad that authorities are taking action against them," said Ahmed Iqbal, a Gudaibiya resident.

According to sources, some expatriates get paid to stick the posters for the advertisers.

"Many expatriates, many of them free visa workers, undertake this task for a price," a source said.

Company accuses employee of embezzlement to trap dad

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A Bahrain-based private company has accused one of its expat employees of embezzling over BD43,000 to pressure his father, who's also an employee there, to pay off his debts.

This has been revealed as the Third High Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday acquitted the defendant, who's an Asian national, as it dismissed the evidence and allegations of the company.

The defendant's lawyer, Zainab Sabt, explained that her client and his father worked for an electrical appliances company in Muharraq Governorate and that the father had borrowed BD43,800 from the company and signed

indebtedness bonds proving the same.

Ms Sabt said the company initially lodged a complaint against the father accusing him of refusing to pay the amounts he borrowed.

The lawyer also said that when the father attempted to travel abroad, the company filed a case against the son accusing him of embezzling the same amount mentioned in the case it previously filed against the father.

Ms Sabt claimed that this was to take revenge against the father's attempt to leave the country and to pressure him so he would pay the amount he owed.

In her defence, Ms Sabt provided the judges with the bond signed by the father showing that

he borrowed the same amount her client was accused of embezzling.

She demanded that the case be referred to an auditor to prove the allegations of the company. The lawyer also pointed out that the testimonies of the witnesses, who are current employees of the company, wouldn't be against their employer, in addition, that they haven't seen the defendant embezzling the said amount.

The defendant was previously acquitted by the High Criminal Court before, but the Public Prosecution appealed against the verdict.

However, the court studied the case once again and decided yesterday to uphold the defendant's acquittal verdict.

American University of Bahrain to open its doors in September

Manama

The American University of Bahrain (AUBH), the first purpose-built American university in the Kingdom, is set to open its doors in September 2019; promising a fresh new approach in program delivery, infrastructure development, and significantly changing the landscape of higher education in the country.

Built on a 75,000 square metre plot in the prestigious Riffa area, the AUBH campus is designed by the US-based global architects Ayers Saint Gross (ASG), who have designed a number of renowned US university campuses.

The new AUBH campus will feature modern classrooms and labs, as well as a state-of-the-art auditorium, student com-

mons, and athletic facilities, all of which will encourage and foster interaction and collaboration between students, faculty and the professional community, providing an educational experience unique to the Middle East.

The AUBH has received institutional approval by the Higher Education Council (HEC) of the Ministry of Education in the Kingdom and plans to launch its schools of Engineering, Architecture and Design, and Business in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Strong emphasis on graduate outcomes and employability will be key differentiators of the new university which aims to offer world-class higher education opportunities in a rapidly evolving Bahrain and the wider Middle East region, the university said in a press release issued.