

Calculated, Not Compelled

Medical experts back prosecution stance

● **Medical panel confirms awareness**

● **Prosecution urges death penalty**

● **Defense seeks more witnesses**

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court of Appeal yesterday heard decisive testimony in the Al-Shakhoura murder case, where a medical panel confirmed that the defendant convicted of killing his neighbor was fully aware of his actions and bears criminal responsibility.

member told the court that although the man had been previously diagnosed with a mood disorder, his actions were deliberate and calculated. They cited how he planned the killing, prepared the knife, concealed it in his clothing, wore gloves and later disposed of the weapon, noting that such conduct proved clear intent.

Prosecution push

During the session, the Public Prosecutor urged the court to reject the defendant's appeal and uphold the death penalty previously handed down by the First High Criminal Court. Prosecutors stressed that despite the old diagnosis, the killing was the product of free will and planning, not compulsion.

The defendant, appearing remorseful at the end of the hear-



Image used for illustrative purposes only

ing, admitted he had not tried to hide the weapon after the incident. Prosecutors, however, argued that the detailed planning and execution outweighed

such claims.

The defense counsel asked the court to hear additional witnesses, including the appellant's treating psychiatrist, before final



Bahrain reinstated the death penalty in 2017 after a seven-year moratorium, with executions resuming that year for the first time since 2010.

arguments scheduled for September 1.

The case stems from the murder of a man in Al-Shakhoura, who was found near his home with multiple stab wounds. In-

vestigations, supported by forensic evidence and security camera footage, identified the attacker as the victim's neighbor and relative.

He confessed that he had resolved to kill the victim following earlier disputes and ambushed him outside his residence with a knife.

Earlier ruling

The First High Criminal Court had unanimously convicted the defendant of premeditated murder and sentenced him to death, citing his confession, coherent testimony during investigations and evidence proving intent and deliberation.

The Court of Appeal will now weigh the medical testimony and defense requests before hearing the final arguments in September.

MP weighs Roblox ban after complaints over child safety



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Mohammed Darwish
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Roblox could be suspended in Bahrain, with MP Hamad Al Doy preparing a proposal after bans in Qatar and Oman and rising complaints at home about child-safety risks.

Al Doy said he is in touch with the relevant authorities and will ask them to act.

He cited daily reports linked to the platform and warned that children can be exposed to exploitation and unsupervised contact with strangers.

Qatar has moved to block 'Roblox', described by the Guardian as a 'virtual world' with millions of user-made games, and Oman has taken the same step.

Commentators there say the platform draws many children and teenagers and that its open design leaves room for unsuitable content, harassment and privacy risks.

Criminals

Cybersecurity firm Kaspersky has reported criminals using fake files tied to the game to spread malware, with more than 1.6 million attempted attacks disguised as Roblox-related files recorded in 2024. Other places have acted.

The United Arab Emirates banned the game in 2018 af-



MP Hamad Al Doy

ter parental complaints about inappropriate content and on-line exploitation.

Jordan has also imposed a ban alongside titles such as 'PUBG' and 'Fortnite'.

In South Korea, the platform has faced scrutiny over data protection and content unsuitable for children.

Warnings

Reports in Britain described attempts by adults to lure children through the service, and Australian authorities issued warnings after finding unsafe chats between minors and unknown users.

'Roblox' is available on Android, iOS, PC and Xbox One.

It targets users aged roughly eight to 18 who build and customise avatars, create games and explore three-dimensional worlds using Roblox Studio and Lua scripting.

Private school warned; staff member sacked over exam breach



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Education Ministry has warned a private school after an exam paper carried an example the ministry said broke classroom rules and ran against the Kingdom of Bahrain's laws, customs and traditions, according to a statement yesterday.

Monitoring of private schools picked up the breach and triggered an inquiry.

The school's management received a formal warning.

The ministry also ordered the removal of the staff member who drafted, reviewed and signed off the paper.

A team was sent in to check the school's curricula and exam models. No other breaches were found.

'Don't Stir Public Opinion'

Al Ayam reporter alleges abuse

● **Reporter claims verbal attack**

● **Lawyer disputes reporting role**

● **Security prevents escalation**

Rehab Mohammad
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A lawyer's reported warning, "Do not write what happened in the session and do not stir public opinion," was said to have disrupted proceedings at the High Criminal Court of Appeal on Sunday, when Al Ayam journalist Ali Tareef alleged he faced verbal abuse and an attempted assault while on routine coverage duty.

The confrontation was described as beginning outside the courtroom when the lawyer allegedly stopped Tareef and accused him of "inciting public opinion" through his reporting. According to accounts, the lawyer objected to the journalist's



presence in the session, despite it being an open hearing.

Escalating Confrontation

Witnesses claimed the exchange intensified when the lawyer raised his voice at the journalist and gestured toward a man standing nearby. The man, said to be the defendant's brother, reportedly moved toward Tareef in what appeared to be an attempt to assault him.

Court security officers were reported to have stepped in quickly, preventing any physical contact and containing what could have been a serious breach of order in the courtroom.

Tareef was quoted as responding calmly, "I am doing my job as a journalist." His statement highlighted the principle that court reporting is part of ensuring public awareness of legal proceedings.

Broader Concerns

Observers suggested that such confrontations may be seen as raising concerns over press safety in judicial spaces. Journalists regularly attend open hearings to promote legal awareness, and incidents like this, whether isolated or not, can lead to wider questions about the ability of reporters to operate freely.

Non-oil output lifts Bahrain's Q1 GDP to BD3.7bln

● **Up 2.7 per cent**

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Bahrain's real GDP reached BD 3.7 billion in the first quarter of 2025, marking a 2.7 per cent rise compared with the same period last year.

The increase came off the back of a 2.2 per cent rise in non-oil output, which totalled BD 3.15 billion, alongside a sharper 5.3 per cent jump in oil activity to BD 566 million.

The findings were published in the government's quarterly economic report, which also cited new World Bank forecasts



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suggesting the economy is on course to gather pace over the next two years.

The projections point to Bahrain's growth rising from 1.8 per cent in 2024 to 3.2 per cent in

2025, then reaching 4.5 per cent by 2026.

Forecast

Regionally, the United Arab Emirates is forecast to lead the Gulf in 2025 with a growth rate of 4.6 per cent. Bahrain follows at 3.5 per cent, then Oman at 3 per cent, Saudi Arabia at 2.8 per cent, Qatar at 2.4 per cent, and Kuwait at 2.2 per cent.

In 2026, the table is expected to shift, with Qatar taking the lead at 5.4 per cent.

The UAE is next at 4.9 per cent, trailed by Saudi Arabia at 4.5 per cent, Oman at 3.7 per cent, Bahrain at 3 per cent, and Kuwait again at the bottom with 2.7 per cent.